



THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

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HUD Emphasizes the Public Housing Service Requirement

On February 22, 2012, HUD issued [Notice PIH 2012-13](#) that reinforces the public service requirements for Public Housing residents. Public Housing notices help to clarify or offer guidance on HUD rules and regulations. This notice states that household members 18 years or older are required to contribute 8 hours per month of community service within their community.

United We Serve
SERVE.GOV

There are many places to look for volunteer opportunities. United We Serve (www.Serve.gov) is a national initiative that focuses on pairing volunteers with local community service projects. Idealist (www.idealist.org) is an independent organization



that connects people, organizations and resources. Volunteer and employment opportunities are available on the Idealist web site.

Community service work may also lead to paid employment. The skills learned and practiced during the volunteering opportunity not only help the local community but also enhance your job skills and provide valuable work experience.

Alternatively, residents can participate in an economic self-sufficiency program for 8 hours per month to meet the community service requirement. Some examples of self-sufficiency activities include job training, GED classes, and substance abuse or mental health counseling. Any activity required by the Department of Public Assistance under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is also counted. Contact your PHA to learn if any of your current activities meet your community service commitment.

Certain adults are not required to meet the community service requirement, those exempt are:

- 62 years or older
- Blind or disabled
- Primary caretaker for blind or disabled individual
- Engaged in work activities
- Are able to meet the requirements of a Social Security funded State program or State welfare program

Visit the 2009 [Notices, Rules and Regulations page](#) to read what HUD regulations say about exemption in Notice PIH 2009-48. It is important to discuss a possible exemption with the PHA. Community service and self-sufficiency allows a public housing resident to acquire new skills while supporting the local community.

Every kid deserves a great school. We're here to help you find it.

Find out more »



Partners in Community: PHAs and Boys & Girls Clubs of America



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**

Every parent wants their child to grow to be a successful and vibrant adult; assistance in reaching this goal and may already be in your community. Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) has partnered with many PHAs across the country to bring safe and accessible youth-development services to

communities. According to BGCA, 316 PHAs have partnered with local Boys & Girls Clubs to offer services in the community. In many cases these partnerships include the housing agency providing space to house the club. Several Clubs across the nation can attribute their start to a local PHA.

The partnership between Boys & Girls Club of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Housing Authority allowed two new sites to be opened. The Wilson Park development Club offers a variety of programs including: cooking, athletics, education and child/parent programs. This branch of the Club also allows youth ages 12 to 17 to participate in a 6 week program which provides training in music recording and engineering, sound setup and production. After completing the training, participants have the opportunity to intern with local radio stations or recording studios in the Philadelphia area.

The Wilson Park Club has been a great success, just 3 months after opening, 80% of the registered members attended the Club daily. Club Vice President Harold Reed, highlighted the positive impact of the Wilson Park Club on its youth, "If there's a facility for them to participate in and also have adults around them that really care about them, I think it's a fantastic opportunity for them to develop and become solid citizens when they get older."

Similarly, the Boys & Girls Club of Lorain County Ohio has been partnered with the Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority since 1999. The Club has a 90% graduation rate among alumni. Also, a poll of Club alumni found that over 50% said the Club "saved their life" and 60% were "more committed to their education." One former Club member became a staff member after graduating from high school and is currently enrolled at The University of Toledo. Michael Conibear, the Executive Director of the Club says "The number-one reason the kids come to the Boys & Girls Club is because of staff – they're surrounded by positive mentors."

If you are interested in finding a Club in your community visit the BGCA website at <http://www.bgca.org>. Clubs promote a positive atmosphere with an emphasis on respect and civic responsibility. Your local Club will provide your child with a safe place to go during non-school hours and summer breaks where they can play, laugh, and learn while building self esteem and lasting friendships.

TIPS: Tornado Safety

April showers bring May flowers, but those same showers may also come with severe spring weather— such as tornadoes. If a tornado warning is broadcast by a local television or radio station, take cover immediately. If a television or radio is available examine the sky: if it is dark or green-colored, has large dark low-lying clouds, showers large hail, or has a loud roar that sounds like a freight train take cover immediately.

The best places to seek cover:

- **House or Apartment** – Interior part of the basement, if there is not an available basement then the lowest room of the building. Avoid windows, take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture such as a workbench or table, and cover yourself with a blanket or mattress to prevent against injury from flying debris.
- **Outdoors** – If there is no shelter available, find a gully, ditch, or low spot on the ground and lie down flat protecting your head with your arms. Avoid trees, cars, buses, and trucks as vehicles can become airborne in a tornado.
- **School** – Schools often have tornado drills, make sure your children pay attention and follow directions given by teachers. They should know to walk in an orderly manner to the designated shelter area and crouch as low as possible while protecting their head from debris.
- **Church, Mall or Theater** – Get to the lowest point in the structure away from windows. Do not use elevators as they could become trapped individuals inside after a loss of. A tornado shelter designation should be present in these public places but if there is no time to get there or there is not one available seek cover under a door frame or under a sturdy object to avoid falling debris. Remember to protect your head.

These suggestions but they will do without preparation. Sit down as a family and discuss where everyone goes in the event of a tornado and conduct a practice drill once a year. Take notice of tornado shelter designations in the public places Make sure friends and family who visit are also aware of this plan. Preparation can be the difference between a few bumps and bruises and serious injury.

Contact us:

**Public and Indian Housing
Information Resource Center (PIH IRC)**
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E-mail: pihirc@firstpic.org
(Put "Resident Newsletter" in subject line)

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HELP CORNER

Father's Day 2012

This summer, on June 16th, HUD is encouraging PHAs across the country to celebrate *Father's Day 2012*. Inspired by an event at New York's housing authority two years ago, *Father's Day* events combine supportive services with promoting fatherhood and strengthening families. During HUD's first *Father's Day* celebration last year, 209 Public Housing Authorities from 33 states held *Father's Day* events. To host the celebrations, PHAs partnered with federal agencies, nonprofits, and local businesses. Many events featured activities for the children such as moon bounces, reading sessions, and games. The event also featured resource tables for the Dads including job training, health checks and legal services. Interested in having a *Father's Day* event in your community? Talk to your PHA. Also, check out the [Father's Day webpage](#) to learn more about the event.