# Housing Authority of Prince George's County

December 2023

301-883-5501



## **NEW PAYMENT STANDARDS**

In cooperation with HUD's newly published small area fair market rent (SAFMR), the Housing Authority of Prince George's County (HAPGC) has updated its payment standards effective January 1, 2024. This information is used in the calculation of the individual subsidy that each public housing authority pays on behalf of their program participants. HUD defines the payment standard as the maximum monthly assistance payment for an eligible family in the Housing Choice Voucher Program (before deducting the total tenant payment by the family).

The new payment standards are reflective of increased costs in the rental market and will likely widen access to more desirable units with the benefit of the housing affordability and stability that the vouchers provide. Please visit our website to access the new payment standards: <u>www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departmentsoffices/housing-authority</u>



# THE NEWS

#### **COST SAVING MEASURES**

Recently, the Housing Authority of Prince George's County (HAPGC) determined it is necessary to implement cost saving measures that affect substantive policy changes as a preemptive strategy to avoid a shortfall of funding. These measures, presented to our Board of Commissioners on Monday, November 20, 2023, included a resolution to temporarily abate rent increases from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024. Please see Housing Authority of Prince George's County Resolution No. 1402 A Resolution amending the Administrative Plan to include regulatory changes for the rental reasonableness policy and a temporary abatement of rent increases on our website.



While cost saving measures were deemed necessary, HUD's guidance encourage making decisions that avoid creating additional burden on program participants. HAPGC considered other factors that may impact HAPGC's viability to administer and fund rental assistance programs that serve the maximum number of low-moderate income level families in need of safe, decent, and affordable housing in Prince George's County.

If you have comments concerning Resolution No. 1402, please email: **<u>hagpcrad@co.pg.md.us</u>** and/or attend the public forum. Visit our website for more information:

<u>www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-</u> <u>offices/housing-authority</u>

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

As HAPGC seeks to go paperless and increase our remote functionality, we may opt to use mass mail messaging as our primary means of sending and receiving information. Please ensure your current contact information and email address is noted on all documentation sent to HAPGC.



#### FREQUENTLY USED EMAIL ADDRESSES

To request an appointment: <u>hapgcappt@co.pg.md.us</u>

To send annual recertification documents: <u>hcvrecertifications@co.pg.md.us</u>

To request move: <u>hapgcleasingpacket@co.pg.md.us</u>

> To request a hearing: <u>hcvhearings@co.pg.md.us</u>

For new/updated landlord contact information: <u>haownerchange@co.pg.md.us</u>

For general information: <u>hapgcrad@co.pg.md.</u>us



#### UTILITY ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

Effective January 1, 2024, HAPGC will disburse monthly utility assistance payments (UAP) benefits via ReliaCard for eligible participants. ReliaCard is a reloadable debit card issued by US Bank that will allow HAPGC to electronically disburse your monthly UAP benefits timely and more efficiently; more information is forthcoming.

If you have previously been issued a UFLEX debit card, you may continue to use this card until your current balance is exhausted; however, no additional funds will be added. If there are additional questions or concerns, please email: <u>hcvutility@co.pg.md.us</u>





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