



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor ♦ Jennifer D. Maddox, Acting Undersecretary

Public Housing Notice 2020-04

To: All Local Housing Authorities
From: Ben Stone, Associate Director, Division of Public Housing
Subject: Exclusion of Income Derived from Temporary 2020 Census Work
Date: February 4, 2020

This PHN notifies Local Housing Authorities that the Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) directs housing authorities to exclude temporary census income from rent determination for residents of State-Aided Public Housing.

The United States Census Bureau will temporarily employ thousands of people, many of whom are low-income, to gather data for the nationwide Decennial Census in the spring of 2020. In general, temporary 2020 Census Bureau employment is nonrecurring, for a limited period of time, and may last a few weeks to several months. Typical positions are expected to last about four to eight weeks and hours are expected to range between 20 and 35 hours per week, though hours of work may be reduced if there is a lack of available work. The employment is not expected to lead to permanent positions and may end at any time.

In order to reduce administrative burdens on Local Housing Authorities (LHAs), support the gathering of accurate census data, and encourage low-income residents of State-Aided Public Housing to engage in the collection of said data, DHCD will waive regulation in order to exclude temporary census income from rent determination. Please see DHCD's waiver letter dated February 4, 2020 (Attachment A), waiving 760 CMR 6.05(1) and (2)(a): Determination of Gross Household Income and Net Household Income, to the extent necessary to exclude, as income for rent determination purposes, any income derived from **temporary** 2020 Census Bureau employment.

Income for any household members that have permanent or non-temporary Census Bureau employment (i.e., not for a limited time) at the United States Census Bureau should still be counted as wages in calculating a household's Gross Household Income pursuant to 760 CMR 6.05(2).

If you have questions, please contact Laura Taylor, Director of Bureau of Housing Management, at laura.taylor@mass.gov.