To be placed on CHAMP letterhead

Applicant Permission to Release Information

What is the purpose of this form?

- This form gives a State-Aided Housing Agency permission to ask you for certain information to verify the information you provide in your application for state-aided public housing or a state rental housing voucher.

  A State-Aided Housing Agency is a local housing authority or a regional administering agency. State rental housing vouchers include the Massachusetts Rental Housing Voucher Program (MRVP) and the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP).

- This form gives a State-Aided Housing Agency permission to use and share certain information with the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to help evaluate housing programs

- This form gives permission to State-Aided Housing Agencies and/or DHCD to share some of your personal information.

Your personal information will only be shared as outlined in this form and as required or allowed by law. Please read carefully before signing this form.

What Personal Information Will State-Aided Housing Agencies and/or DHCD Share?

Shared information may include, but is not limited to:

- biographic information (e.g., name, date of birth);
- demographic information (e.g., address, race, ethnicity, language); and
- income, employment, and other information related to your application for initial eligibility/qualification for, or participation in state-aided Public Housing, MRVP, or AHVP.

What Personal Information Will Not Be Shared?

This form will not be used to share personally identifiable information related to any of the following subjects. If a State-Aided Housing Agency and/or DHCD requires any personally identifiable information related to the following subjects, they will ask for separate written permission for your:

- Medical Information;
- Criminal Information;
- Verification of a Disability;

- Information related to any priority or preference claims, including homelessness and domestic violence; and
- Reasonable Accommodation Information, including that a reasonable accommodation was requested, granted, or denied and/or any medical information submitted as part of a request for reasonable accommodation.

How will your personal information be kept secure?

The personal information you provide through this release will be securely maintained in accordance with applicable law and regulation, including but not limited to M.G.L. c. 66A, Fair Information Practices Act and 760 CMR 8.00, Privacy and Confidentiality.

Can I have access to my personal information and challenge it if it is not accurate or relevant?

Yes. Under 760 CMR 8.05(1), you, or your authorized representative, may file an objection with the State-Aided Housing Agency or DHCD objecting to the accuracy, completeness, pertinence, timeliness, relevance, use or dissemination of your personal data or the denial of access to your personal data.

What happens if I do not sign this Release Form?

Failure to sign this form may result in the denial of assistance, suspension or termination of housing assistance, or repayment of assistance

Will I be notified if information obtained because of this release form results in an action being taken against me?

Yes. You will be notified in writing of actions taken against you because of information gained from verification processes, provided an opportunity to contest the actions, and given information on how to do so.

How long does this Release Form last?

The release is effective from the date of signature until you are housed.

Permission to Verify the Information I Have Provided

- I give permission for all individuals, companies, agencies, offices of the state and federal governments, and their designated contractors, subcontractors, and agents to release any information about me and my household members to State-Aided Housing Agencies and/or DHCD to verify the information I provided in my application.

- I also give permission for State-Aided Housing Agencies and/or DHCD to obtain information (by any means, including oral, written, electronic, facsimile or telephonic) about me and my household members to verify the information I provided in my application to determine eligibility and qualification for the housing programs.

Permission to Share My Information

I give permission for State-Aided Housing Agencies and/or DHCD:

- To use my personal information to inform research, analysis and program evaluation by DHCD, other state agencies, or external partners on DHCD programs or other initiatives that will help DHCD improve state-aided housing assistance programs;
- To use my personal information to make referrals to other state-funded initiatives and benefit programs for eligibility determination, recruitment, and outreach purposes (I do not have to participate in these programs); and
- To comply with state reporting and record keeping requirements.

I agree to cooperate in requests to provide information to the State-Aided Housing Agencies and/or DHCD and I understand if I do not, it may result in me being disqualified or ineligible for state-aided public housing, AHVP, and/or MRVP.

I have read or been read and understand this form. A photocopy or digital copy of this release is as valid as the original.

_____

Head of Household Printed Name

_____

Head of Household Signature*

*If typed, my typed name represents my signature.

_____

Date

The English version of this Applicant Permission to Release Information is the official version and must be signed.