

## RESIDENT INITIATIVES AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

**Background:** HUD recognizes the importance of resident involvement in creating a positive living environment and in actively participating in the overall mission of public housing. In keeping with this policy, HUD also promotes partnerships between residents and PHA's which are essential to building, strengthening and improving housing.

**Policy:** The Housing Authority of the City of El Paso (HACEP) will promote resident initiatives, participation and involvement in the Housing Authority's overall mission and operation. HACEP sees resident participation as a critical component of public housing since it contributes to higher housing quality, better management, lower costs, healthier communities, and better decision-making.

HACEP will enhance the residents' quality of life by encouraging and supporting exposure to several initiatives. Residents will be provided with opportunities to participate in initiatives to enhance their quality of life including, but not limited to the following:

- Monthly council meetings held at their respective communities and during the Jurisdiction Wide Resident Council (JWRC). HACEP will involve residents to have a role in asset management through open and frequent communication and meetings with the JWRC officers. Likewise, public housing management and administration will attend the monthly meetings at the various communities to engage residents in the informational and decision-making process.
- HACEP will encourage resident participation in its One and Five Year Plans by the administrative team scheduling work meetings at the various communities located throughout the city and inviting residents, resident councils and the JWRC to participate in the planning and discussions. Likewise, residents and resident councils will be invited to participate in the public hearing which is held during times conducive to maximum participation by residents.
- The Community Services department staff along with the collaboration and coordination with the respective resident councils, the JWRC and the assistant property managers will schedule a variety of informational, educational, recreational and training resources at the public housing communities. The staff will support and assist the resident councils and the Jurisdiction-Wide Resident Council in fulfilling their roles and meeting their respective responsibilities.
- HACEP will engage the participation of children and youth through the Summer Youth Challenge Program and the Youth Career Exploration Program. HACEP will expose children and youth to positive learning opportunities to facilitate positive social skills among their peers and prepare them to be good citizens and productive, tax-contributors in their communities.
- The Community Services Department with assistance from HUD through grant awards will encourage resident participation in self-sufficiency programs. The resident councils, the JWRC, and assistant property managers, will assist to outreach and recruit residents from the various communities to take advantage of these opportunities.

HACEP will engage resident participation in allowable activities by providing funding to duly elect resident councils and the JWRC. These funds may be used for a variety of resident services and activities such as, but not limited to, scholarships, recreational fees, transportation, etc.

HACEP does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you or anyone in your family is a person with a disability and you require a specific accommodation in order to fully utilize our programs and services, please contact the Equal Opportunity Officer at Main: 915-849-3742/Voice/TDD 915-849-3737.

**Administration:**

The HACEP Community Services Department has the responsibility to find as many partners that can provide services and resources at little or no cost. The department also has the responsibility to seek funding through grant opportunities to expand services to HACEP residents.

Resident Relations Specialists are responsible to support and assist the resident councils and the JWRC in fulfilling their roles and meeting their respective responsibilities. They provide technical assistance, guidance, training, process requests for services and develop partnerships with local agencies and local business in the community. An accounting technician manages the Resident Participation funds and prepares monthly reports to issue to the resident councils.