



**Worcester Housing
Authority**

September 22, 2014

Dear Property Owner

Recently, the WHA requested HUD approval to allow us to limit the amount of time that residents of federal public housing and leased housing (Section 8) receive their housing benefit. The purpose of this program is (1) to motivate residents toward self-sufficiency and (2) free up scarce housing resources for some of the many applicants who languish on our waiting lists.

I am delighted to inform you that HUD has approved our amendment. For the past few weeks, I have been meeting with staff to put some of the many pieces together that will allow us to implement the program. For more detailed information go to the home page of our web site and click on "Time Limits".

We are currently in the process of notifying residents and answering their questions. Since this is such a significant change from our existing policy of unending tenancy, we will (a) hold informational meetings (b) dedicate a separate phone line and staff person to answer questions and (c) We have also published a Q&A document, on our web site, which we hope answers every question.

I would point out that this approval is the logical extension of our "A Better Life" program. I would also point out that with this approval we have become one of only a very few (if any) housing authorities in the entire country who will implement such a program in both public and leased housing. I anticipate that the program will begin on November 1.

The work ahead is daunting and the challenges to implement this properly are significant. But, in my opinion, it is what we have been working toward for the past several years. In the end, every resident that we move toward self-sufficiency will be our legacy.

Sincerely,

Raymond V. Mariano
Executive Director

Board of Commissioners

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