



# ***FAMILY RE-ENTRY PILOT PROGRAM***

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The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has urged public housing authorities across the country to adopt programs that enable some formerly incarcerated individuals to gain stability and reunite with family living in public housing. Research shows that this approach to re-entry strengthens families and enhances safety in communities.

## **Family Re-entry Pilot Program: Stable Housing Is Key For Success**

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The Family Re-entry Pilot Program is a collaborative effort between the New York City Housing Authority and the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS). The Vera Institute of Justice and the Corporation of Supportive Housing also are working with NYCHA in planning and developing the project. The program is designed for individuals who are leaving prison and/or jail to reunite with their families who live in NYCHA public housing; it also will provide them with re-entry services. Participating providers (see list) will identify eligible participants before or after release from incarceration. Individuals will be fully assessed by the agency referring them, and among other things will need to demonstrate a strong motivation to change, and have goals to help them along the path of a successful re-entry. NYCHA will also do a thorough screening of the individual referred, and will also screen their families, before they are accepted into the program. Participants will receive temporary permission for up to two years to reside in the public housing household while they are in the program. At the end of the two years, if the pilot participant successfully completes the requirements of the program, and meets their goals, his/her family can request that the participant become an addition to the NYCHA lease and household on a permanent basis.

## **Goals & Benefits**

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The Family Re-entry Pilot Program reunites families and strengthens NYCHA and surrounding communities and promotes public safety by providing a path for people to come out of the shadows and become stable, productive members of their community and contributing members of their household. The Program prevents recently released individuals from entering the city's homeless shelters, eases the burden on service resources, and is expected to reduce returns to incarceration.

## **Eligibility**

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An eligible candidate must be at least 16 years old; and must have been released from a correctional facility within the last 18 months (a candidate may be identified and referred to the pilot prior to release). These facilities include jails, prisons, and juvenile correctional facilities. A candidate must want to live with family members who agree to participate and who currently live in a NYCHA apartment (Section 8 housing and certain tax-credit buildings are not eligible; for seniors-only housing, a candidate

must meet the age requirements for senior housing). A candidate must be within a certain category of family relationship with the NYCHA tenant of record. An eligible candidate must be willing to participate in intensive case management services for at least six months; family members can also receive services if they choose to participate. Ultimately, a candidate must be motivated to make a positive change in his/her life.

## Who is *not* eligible for the pilot program?

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You are not eligible to participate in the pilot program:

- If you are a lifetime registered sex offender.
- If you have been convicted of producing methamphetamine in public housing.
- If you are currently engaged in illegal drug use or alcohol abuse that could threaten other residents' or employees' health and safety, and if you are not currently participating in a licensed drug or alcohol rehabilitation program.
- If you have been evicted from federally-assisted housing (public housing or Section 8, assisted through NYCHA or elsewhere) within the past three years for drug-related criminal activity, and you cannot demonstrate that you have successfully completed a licensed drug rehabilitation program or that the circumstances leading to your eviction no longer exist.
- If you have already been permanently excluded from NYCHA through the administrative termination of tenancy process.

## Participating Service Providers

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| -Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services (CASES) | - Fortune Society Center    |
| -Center for Community Alternatives (CCA)                           | - Harlem Community Justice  |
| -ComALERT at the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office               | -Osborne Association        |
| -Exodus Transitional Community                                     | -Palladia, Inc.             |
|  | -Women's Prison Association |

## To get started

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To learn more about this program, please contact the Family Re-entry Pilot Program information line at 212-306-6024 or email [family.reentry@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:family.reentry@nycha.nyc.gov).

## From NY State Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright:

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*"I have been a longtime advocate for the importance of comprehensive support services as the key to reducing the high recidivism rates plaguing our communities. Finding a place to live and steady employment are two of the biggest obstacles facing the thousands of men and women who are released from incarceration each year. The exclusion of these individuals from eligibility for public housing has been a tremendous problem over the years. Oftentimes, for lack of any other option, they are forced to live in secret under the shelter of a family member. NYCHA's new initiative will allow the individuals who are serious about transforming their lives and reentering society as law-abiding citizens to return to a home, where they can reestablish themselves with the support of family, and access to the employment assistance and social services they need to help them stay on the right path. I am confident that this new initiative will be successful and that these individuals will have a far greater chance of success."*