

Chapter 11

REEXAMINATIONS

INTRODUCTION

BCHD is required to reexamine each family's income and composition at least annually, and to adjust the family's level of assistance accordingly. Interim reexaminations are also needed in certain situations. This chapter discusses both annual and interim reexaminations, and the recalculation of family share and subsidy that occurs as a result. HUD regulations and BCHD policies concerning reexaminations are presented in three parts:

Part I: Annual Reexaminations. This part discusses the process for conducting annual reexaminations.

Part II: Interim Reexaminations. This part details the requirements for families to report changes in family income and composition between annual reexaminations.

Part III: Recalculating Family Share and Subsidy Amount. This part discusses the recalculation of family share and subsidy amounts based on the results of annual and interim reexaminations.

Policies governing reasonable accommodation, family privacy, required family cooperation, and program abuse, as described elsewhere in this plan, apply to both annual and interim reexaminations.

PART I: ANNUAL REEXAMINATIONS [24 CFR 982.516]

11-I.A. OVERVIEW

BCHD must conduct a reexamination of family income and composition at least annually. This includes gathering and verifying current information about family composition, income, and expenses. Based on this updated information, the family's income and rent must be recalculated. This part discusses the schedule for annual reexaminations, the information to be collected and verified, and annual reexamination effective dates.

11-I. B STREAMLINED ANNUAL REEXAMINATIONS [24 CFR 982.516(b)]

HUD permits BCHDs to streamline the income determination process for family members with fixed sources of income. While third-party verification of all income sources must be obtained during the intake process and every three years thereafter, in the intervening years BCHD may determine income from fixed sources by applying a verified cost of living adjustment (COLA) or rate of interest. BCHD may, however, obtain third-party verification of all income, regardless of the source. Further, upon request of the family, BCHD must perform third-party verification of all income sources.

Fixed sources of income include Social Security and SSI benefits, pensions, annuities, disability or death benefits, and other sources of income subject to a COLA or rate of interest. The determination of fixed income may be streamlined even if the family also receives income from other non-fixed sources.

Two streamlining options are available, depending upon the percentage of the family's income that is received from fixed sources. If at least 90 percent of the family's income is from fixed sources, the PHA may streamline the verification of fixed income and may choose whether to verify non-fixed income amounts in years where no fixed-income review is required. If the family receives less than 90 percent of its income from fixed sources, the PHA may streamline the verification of fixed income and must verify non-fixed income annually.

BCHD Policy

BCHD will streamline the annual reexamination process by applying the verified COLA or interest rate to fixed-income sources. BCHD will document in the file how the determination that a source of income was fixed was made.

If a family member with a fixed source of income is added, BCHD will use third-party verification of all income amounts for that family member.

If verification of the COLA or rate of interest is not available, BCHD will obtain third-party verification of income amounts.

Third-party verification of fixed sources of income will be obtained during the intake process and at least once every three years thereafter.

Third-party verification of non-fixed income will be obtained annually regardless of the percentage of family income received from fixed sources.

11-I.C. SCHEDULING ANNUAL REEXAMINATIONS

BCHD must establish a policy to ensure that the annual reexamination for each family is completed *within* a 12-month period, and may require reexaminations more frequently [HCV GB p. 12-1].

BCHD Policy

BCHD will begin the annual reexamination process 120 days in advance of its scheduled effective date. Generally, BCHD will schedule annual reexamination effective dates to coincide with the family's anniversary date.

Recert Date	Ltr/Pckt dated & mailed	Appts Sched. For:
1/1	No later than 10/1	11/1
2/1	No later than 11/1	12/1
3/1	No later than 12/1	1/1
4/1	No later than 1/1	2/1
5/1	No later than 2/1	3/1
6/1	No later than 3/1	4/1
7/1	No later than 4/1	5/1
8/1	No later than 5/1	6/1
9/1	No later than 6/1	7/1
10/1	No later than 7/1	8/1
11/1	No later than 8/1	9/1
12/1	No later than 9/1	10/1

Anniversary date is defined as 12 months from the effective date of the family's last annual reexamination or, during a family's first year in the program, from the effective date of the family's initial examination (admission).

If the family moves to a new unit, BCHD will perform a new annual reexamination.

BCHD also may schedule an annual reexamination for completion prior to the anniversary date for administrative purposes.

Notification of and Participation in the Annual Reexamination Process

BCHD is required to obtain the information needed to conduct annual reexaminations. How that information will be collected is left to the discretion of BCHD. However, BCHD should give tenants who were not provided the opportunity the option to complete Form HUD-92006 at this time [Notice PIH 2009-36].

BCHD Policy

Families generally are required to participate in an annual reexamination interview, which must be attended by the head of household, spouse, co-head, and live-in-aide. If participation in an in-person interview poses a hardship because of a family member's disability, the family should contact BCHD to request a reasonable accommodation (see Chapter 2).

Notification of annual reexamination interviews will be sent by first-class mail and will contain the date, time, and location of the interview. In addition, it will inform the family of the information and documentation that must be brought to the interview.

If the family is unable to attend a scheduled interview, the family should contact BCHD in advance of the interview to schedule a new appointment. If a family does not attend the scheduled interview, BCHD will send a second notification with a new interview date and appointment time.

If a family fails to attend two scheduled interviews without BCHD approval, or if the notice is returned by the post office with no forwarding address, a notice of termination (see Chapter 12) will be sent to the family's address of record, and to any alternate address provided in the family's file.

An advocate, interpreter, or other assistant may assist the family in the interview process. The family and BCHD must execute a certification attesting to the role and the assistance provided by any such third party.

11-I.D. CONDUCTING ANNUAL REEXAMINATIONS

As part of the annual reexamination process, families are required to provide updated information to BCHD regarding the family's income, expenses, and composition [24 CFR 982.551(b)].

BCHD Policy

Families will be asked to bring all required information (as described in the reexamination notice) to the reexamination appointment. The required information will include BCHD-designated reexamination form, an Authorization for the Release of Information/Privacy Act Notice, as well as supporting documents or forms related to the family's income, expenses, and family composition.

Any required documents or information that the family is unable to provide at the time of the interview must be provided within 10 business days of the interview. If the family is unable to obtain the information or materials within the required time frame, the family may request an extension.

If the family does not provide the required documents or information within the required time period (plus any extensions), the family will be sent a notice of termination (See Chapter 12).

Additionally, HUD recommends that at annual reexaminations BCHD ask whether the tenant, or any member of the tenant's household, is subject to a lifetime sex offender registration requirement in any state [Notice PIH 2012-28].

BCHD Policy

At the annual reexamination, BCHD will ask whether the tenant, or any member of the tenant's household, is subject to a lifetime sex offender registration requirement in any state. BCHD will use the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender database to verify the information provided by the tenant.

If BCHD proposes to terminate assistance based on lifetime sex offender registration information, BCHD must notify the household of the proposed action and must provide the subject of the record and the tenant a copy of the record and an opportunity to dispute the accuracy and relevance of the information prior to termination. [24 CFR 5.903(f) and 5.905(d)]. (See Chapter 12.)

The information provided by the family generally must be verified in accordance with the policies in Chapter 7. Unless the family reports a change, or BCHD has reason to believe a change has occurred in information previously reported by the family, certain types of information that are verified at admission typically do not need to be re-verified on an annual basis. These include:

- Legal identity
- Age
- Social security numbers
- A person's disability status
- Citizenship or immigration status

If adding a new family member to the unit causes overcrowding according to the housing quality standards (HQS) (see Chapter 8), BCHD must issue the family a new voucher, and the family and BCHD must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for rental by the family, BCHD must terminate the HAP contract in accordance with its terms [24 CFR 982.403].

**11-I.E. DETERMINING ONGOING ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN STUDENTS
[24 CFR 982.552(b)(5)]**

Section 327 of Public Law 109-115 established new restrictions on the ongoing eligibility of certain students (both part- and full-time) who are enrolled in institutions of higher education.

If a student enrolled in an institution of higher education is under the age of 24, is not a veteran, is not married, does not have a dependent child, and is not a person with disabilities receiving HCV assistance as of November 30, 2005, the student's eligibility must be reexamined along with the income eligibility of the student's parents on an annual basis. In these cases, both the student and the student's parents must be income eligible for the student to continue to receive HCV assistance. If, however, a student in these circumstances is determined independent from his or her parents or is considered a *vulnerable youth* in accordance with BCHD policy, the income of the student's parents will not be considered in determining the student's ongoing eligibility.

Students who reside with parents in an HCV assisted unit are not subject to this provision. It is limited to students who are receiving assistance on their own, separately from their parents.

BCHD Policy

During the annual reexamination process, BCHD will determine the ongoing eligibility of each student who is subject to the eligibility restrictions in 24 CFR 5.612 by reviewing the student's individual income as well as the income of the student's parents. If the student has been determined "independent" from his/her parents or is considered a *vulnerable youth* based on the policies in Sections 3-II. E and 7-II. E, the parents' income will not be reviewed.

If the student is no longer income eligible based on his/her own income or the income of his/her parents, the student's assistance will be terminated in accordance with the policies in Section 12-I.D.

If the student continues to be income eligible based on his/her own income and the income of his/her parents (if applicable), BCHD will process a reexamination in accordance with the policies in this chapter.

11-I.F. EFFECTIVE DATES

BCHD must establish policies concerning the effective date of changes that result from an annual reexamination [24 CFR 982.516].

BCHD Policy

In general, an *increase* in the family share of the rent that results from an annual reexamination will take effect on the family's anniversary date, and the family will be notified at least 30 days in advance.

If less than 30 days remain before the scheduled effective date, the increase will take effect on the first of the month following the end of the 30-day notice period.

If a family moves to a new unit, the increase will take effect on the effective date of the new lease and HAP contract, and no 30-day notice is required.

If BCHD chooses to schedule an annual reexamination for completion prior to the family's anniversary date for administrative purposes, the effective date will be determined by BCHD, but will always allow for the 30-day notice period.

If the family causes a delay in processing the annual reexamination, *increases* in the family share of the rent will be applied retroactively, to the scheduled effective date of the annual reexamination. The family will be responsible for any overpaid subsidy and may be offered a repayment agreement in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16.

In general, a *decrease* in the family share of the rent that results from an annual reexamination will take effect on the family's anniversary date.

If a family moves to a new unit, the decrease will take effect on the effective date of the new lease and HAP contract.

If BCHD chooses to schedule an annual reexamination for completion prior to the family's anniversary date for administrative purposes, the effective date will be determined by BCHD.

If the family causes a delay in processing the annual reexamination, *decreases* in the family share of the rent will be applied prospectively, from the first day of the month following completion of the reexamination processing.

Delays in reexamination processing are considered to be caused by the family if the family fails to provide information requested by BCHD by the date specified, and this delay prevents BCHD from completing the reexamination as scheduled.

PART II: INTERIM REEXAMINATIONS [24 CFR 982.516]

11-II.A. OVERVIEW

Family circumstances may change between annual reexaminations. HUD and BCHD policies dictate what kinds of information about changes in family circumstances must be reported, and under what circumstances BCHD must process interim reexaminations to reflect those changes. HUD regulations also permit BCHD to conduct interim reexaminations of income or family composition at any time. When an interim reexamination is conducted, only those factors that have changed are verified and adjusted [HCV GB, p. 12-10].

In addition to specifying what information the family must report, HUD regulations permit the family to request an interim determination if other aspects of the family's income or composition changes. BCHD must complete the interim reexamination within a reasonable time after the family's request.

This part includes HUD and BCHD policies describing what changes families are required to report, what changes families may choose to report, and how BCHD will process both BCHD- and family-initiated interim reexaminations.

11-II.B. CHANGES IN FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

The family is required to report all changes in family composition. BCHD must adopt policies prescribing when and under what conditions the family must report changes in income and family composition. However, due to family obligations under the program, BCHD has limited discretion in this area.

BCHD Policy

BCHD will conduct interim reexaminations to account for any changes in household composition that occur between annual reexaminations.

Timely reporting for the client: The client must report all changes within 30 business days of the change. For example, if a client starts working on the 10th of the month, they must report the change within 30 business days of that change. Failure to report within that timeframe (30 business days) will result in a program violation for failing to report changes in a timely manner. Also, if a client doesn't report the change in a timely manner, there is a possibility the client may have a repayment agreement to recoup the overpayment of HAP (see chapter 16 for direction on repayment agreements).

Effective dates of the change: All changes must be reported and the required documentation for that change must be provided by the 12th of the month, whether the change causes an increase or decrease in the client's portion. If the 12th of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date will change to the 1st business day following the 12th.

For Decreases in Tenant Rent: If the client reports and provides all necessary documentation to make the change before the 12th of the month and the change causes a decrease in the client's portion of rent, the effective date will be for the immediate upcoming month.

For example, a client reports and provides all required documentation for the change by October 12th, the effective date of the change will be for November 1st.

If the client reports and provides all documentation necessary for the change the 13th of the month or later, the change causes a decrease in the client's portion of the rent, the effective date will be for the month following the immediate upcoming month.

For example, a client reports and brings in all required documentation October 13th and causes a decrease in the client's rent, the effective date of the change will be for December 1st.

Voucher Upgrades: BCHD will make the change effective the upcoming month. This action will typically cause the participant's portion of rent to decrease.

For Increases in Tenant Rent: If the client reports and provides all required documentation before or after the 12th of the month and the change causes an increase, the effective date will be for the following month of giving a full 30-day notice (as required by state law).

For example, a client reports and brings in all required documentation by October 12th and the change causes an increase in their portion of the rent, the effective date of the change will be for December 1st.

For example, if the client reports and brings in all required documentation October 12th to 31st and the change causes an increase in their portion of rent, the effective date of the change will be for December 1st.

For increases in client rent, the client must receive a full 30-day notice of the increase as required by state law.

Voucher Downgrades: BCHD will process this change on the upcoming annual reexamination. This action will typically cause the participant's portion of rent to increase.

New Family Members Not Requiring BCHD Approval

The addition of a family member as a result of birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody does not require BCHD approval. However, the family is required to promptly notify BCHD of the addition [24 CFR 982.551(h)(2)].

BCHD Policy

The family must inform BCHD of the birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody of a child within 30 business days.

The voucher and payment standard will be adjusted according to the occupancy standards in Chapter 5 and will be applied according to policies on page 11-8, Decreases in Tenant Rent and 11-9, Increases in Tenant Rent, for interims.

Timely Reporting for the Client:

The client must report all changes within 30 calendar days of the change. Failure to report within that timeframe (30 calendar days) will result in a program violation for failing to report changes in a timely manner. Also, if a client doesn't report the change in a timely manner, there is a possibility the client may have a repayment agreement to recoup the overpayment of HAP (see chapter 16 for direction on repayment agreements).

Effective dates of the change: All changes must be reported by the 12th of the month, whether the change causes an increase or decrease in the client's portion. If the 12th of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date will change to the 1st business day following the 12th.

For Decreases in Tenant Rent: If the client reports the change before the 12th of the month and the change causes a decrease in the client's portion of rent, the effective date will be for the immediate upcoming month.

Voucher Upgrades: The BCHD will make the change effective the upcoming month. This action will typically cause the participant's portion of rent to decrease.

For Increases in Tenant Rent: If the client reports and provides all required documentation before or after the 12th of the month and the change causes an increase, the effective date will be for the following month of giving a full 30-day notice (as required by state law).

For example, a client reports and brings in all required documentation by October 12th and the change causes an increase in their portion of the rent, the effective date of the change will be for December 1st.

For example, if the client reports and brings in all required documentation October 12th to 31st and the change causes an increase in their portion of rent, the effective date of the change will be for December 1st.

For increases in client rent, the client must receive a full 30-day notice of the increase as required by state law.

Voucher Downgrades: BCHD will process this change on the upcoming annual reexamination. This action will typically cause the participant's portion of rent to increase

New Family and Household Members Requiring Approval

With the exception of children who join the family as a result of birth, adoption, or court-awarded custody, a family must request BCHD approval to add a new family member [24 CFR 982.551(h)(2)] or other household member (live-in aide or foster child) [24 CFR 982.551(h)(4)].

When any new family member is added, BCHD must make appropriate adjustments in the family share of the rent and the HAP payment at the effective date of either the annual or interim reexamination [24 CFR 982.516(e)(2)].

If a change in family size causes a violation of Housing Quality Standards (HQS) space standards (see Chapter 8), BCHD must issue the family a new voucher, and the family and BCHD must try to find an acceptable unit as soon as possible. If an acceptable unit is available for rental by the family, BCHD must terminate the family's HAP contract in accordance with its terms [24 CFR 982.403].

BCHD Policy

Families must request BCHD approval to add a new family member, live-in aide, foster child, or foster adult. This includes any person not on the lease who is expected to stay in the unit for more than 30 consecutive days or 90 cumulative days within a 12-month period and therefore no longer qualifies as a “guest.” Requests must be made in writing and approved by BCHD prior to the individual moving into the unit.

BCHD will not approve the addition of a new family or household member unless the individual meets BCHD’s eligibility criteria (see Chapter 3) and documentation requirements (see Chapter 7, Part II).

BCHD will not approve the addition of a foster child or foster adult if it will cause a violation of HQS space standards.

If BCHD determines an individual meets BCHD’s eligibility criteria and documentation requirements, BCHD will provide written approval to the family. If the approval of a new family member or live-in aide will cause overcrowding according to HQS standards, the approval letter will explain that the family will be issued a voucher and will be required to move.

If BCHD determines that an individual does not meet BCHD’s eligibility criteria or documentation requirements, BCHD will notify the family in writing of its decision to deny approval of the new family or household member and the reasons for the denial.

BCHD will make its determination within 10 business days of receiving all information required to verify the individual’s eligibility.

When Adding Household Members (see Chapter 7)

BCHD Policy

When adults are being added to the household and not married, the family must provide proof of relationship.

When blood related, proof of birth showing the familial relationship is acceptable form of proof.

When not blood related, proof of long term established relationship of 12 months or more. The family must provide documents to show relationship of 12 months or more.

Foster adults are the only exception.

When minors are being added to the household without their parent, the family must provide proof of relationship, as well as ability to act legally on behalf of minor. Proof of showing legal ability to make decisions on behalf of the child/children being added to household. Examples of documentation to prove this:

Legal Custody/guardianship paperwork;
Notarized Caregiver Affidavit
CYFD Safety Plan

Foster children are the only exception.

Adding: Whether the person being added to the household needs prior approval or not, the following applies:

If a client is adding someone to their household that affects the number bedrooms they qualify for, the reexamination will take effect according to page 11-8, Decreases in Tenant Rent or 11-9, Increases in Tenant Rent— (depending on whether the rent increases or decreases). This means the voucher size and payment standard will be adjusted based on the current report family composition. If this change is occurring between annual reexaminations, the client will be allowed to move in conjunction with the next annual reexamination.

Voucher Upgrades: BCHD will make the change effective the upcoming reexamination. This action will typically cause the participant's portion of rent to decrease.

Departure of a Family or Household Member

Families must promptly notify BCHD if any family member no longer lives in the unit [24 CFR 982.551(h)(3)]. Because household members are considered when determining the family unit (voucher) size [24 CFR 982.402], BCHD also needs to know when any live-in aide, foster child, or foster adult ceases to reside in the unit.

BCHD Policy

If a household member ceases to reside in the unit, the family must inform BCHD within 10 business days. This requirement also applies to a family member who has been considered temporarily absent at the point that the family concludes the individual is permanently absent.

If a live-in aide, foster child, or foster adult ceases to reside in the unit, the family must inform BCHD within 30 business days.

11-II.C. CHANGES AFFECTING INCOME OR EXPENSES

Interim reexaminations can be scheduled either because BCHD has reason to believe that changes in income or expenses may have occurred, or because the family reports a change. When a family reports a change, BCHD may take different actions depending on whether the family reported the change voluntarily, or because it was required to do so.

BCHD-Initiated Interim Reexaminations

BCHD-initiated interim reexaminations are those that are scheduled based on circumstances or criteria defined by BCHD. They are not scheduled because of changes reported by the family.

BCHD Policy

BCHD will conduct interim reexaminations in each of the following instances:

For families receiving the Earned Income Disallowance (EID), BCHD will conduct an interim reexamination at the start and conclusion of the 24-month eligibility period.

If the family has reported zero income, BCHD will conduct an interim reexamination every 3 months as long as the family continues to report that they have no income. If the client reports family contributions, this will cause them to be removed from zero income and will be counted as income in the rent calculation. Zero income means no income at all.

If at the time of the annual reexamination, it is not feasible to anticipate a level of income for the next 12 months (e.g. seasonal or cyclic income), BCHD will schedule an interim reexamination to coincide with the end of the period for which it is feasible to project income.

If at the time of the annual reexamination, tenant declarations were used on a provisional basis due to the lack of third-party verification, and third-party verification becomes available, BCHD will conduct an interim reexamination.

BCHD may conduct an interim reexamination at any time in order to correct an error in a previous reexamination, or to investigate a tenant fraud complaint.

Family-Initiated Interim Reexaminations

BCHD must adopt policies prescribing when and under what conditions the family must report changes in family income or expenses [24 CFR 982.516(c)]. In addition, HUD regulations require that the family be permitted to obtain an interim reexamination any time the family has experienced a change in circumstances since the last determination [24 CFR 982.516(b)(2)].

Required Reporting

HUD regulations give BCHD the freedom to determine the circumstances under which families will be required to report changes affecting income.

BCHD Policy

Families are required to report all increases in earned income, including new employment, within 30 calendar days of the date the change takes effect.

BCHD will only conduct interim reexaminations for families that qualify for the earned income disallowance (EID), and only when the EID family's share of rent will change as a result of the increase. In all other cases, BCHD will note the information in the tenant file, but will not conduct an interim reexamination.

Families are required to report any other changes in income or expenses.

Timely reporting for the client: The client must report all changes within 30 business days of the change. For example, if a client starts working on the 10th of the month, they must report the change within 30 calendar days of that change. Failure to report within that change timeframe (30 business days) will result in a program violation for failing to report changes in a timely manner. Also, if a client doesn't report the change in a timely manner, there is a possibility the client may have a repayment agreement to recoup the overpayment of HAP (see chapter 16 for direction on repayment agreements).

If the tenant is reporting changes in current income information that results in less than a \$200 monthly difference in increased income (\$2400 annually), a change will not be processed.

Optional Reporting

The family may request an interim reexamination any time the family has experienced a change in circumstances since the last determination [24 CFR 982.516(b)(2)]. BCHD must process the request if the family reports a change that will result in a reduced family income [HCV GB, p. 12-9].

If a family reports a decrease in income from the loss of welfare benefits due to fraud or non-compliance with a welfare agency requirement to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program, the family's share of the rent will not be reduced [24 CFR 5.615]. For more information regarding the requirement to impute welfare income see Chapter 6.

BCHD Policy

If a family reports a change that it was not required to report and that would result in a decrease in the family share of rent, BCHD will conduct an interim reexamination. See Section 11-II.D. for effective dates.

Families may report changes in income or expenses at any time.

11-II.D. PROCESSING THE INTERIM REEXAMINATION

Method of Reporting

BCHD Policy

The family **MUST** request an appointment to report any changes that occur between annual reexaminations.

All changes to the client's file must be in writing at the appointment by submitting a request for interim form.

All changes must be reported and the required documentation for that change and it must be provided by the 12th of each month—whether the change causes an increase or decrease in the client's portion.

Generally, the family will not be required to attend an interview for an interim reexamination. However, if BCHD determines that an interview is warranted, the family may be required to attend.

Based on the type of change reported, BCHD will determine the documentation the family will be required to submit. The family must submit any required information or documents within 10 business days of receiving a request from BCHD. This time frame may be extended for good cause with BCHD approval. BCHD will accept required documentation by mail, by fax, email, or in person.

Effective Dates

BCHD must establish the time frames in which any changes that result from an interim reexamination will take effect [24 CFR 982.516(d)]. The changes may be applied either retroactively or prospectively, depending on whether there is to be an increase or a decrease in the family share of the rent, and whether the family reported any required information within the required time frames [HCV GB, p. 12-10].

BCHD Policy

If the family share of the rent is to *increase*:

The increase generally will be effective on the first of the month following 30 days' notice to the family.

If a family fails to report a change within the required time frames, or fails to provide all required information within the required time frames, the increase will be applied retroactively, to the date it would have been effective had the information been provided on a timely basis. The family will be responsible for any overpaid subsidy and may be offered a repayment agreement in accordance with the policies in Chapter 16.

If the family share of the rent is to *decrease*:

The decrease will be effective on the first day of the month following the month in which the change was reported and all required documentation was submitted. In cases where the change cannot be verified until after the date the change would have become effective, the change will be made retroactively.

PART III: RECALCULATING FAMILY SHARE AND SUBSIDY AMOUNT

11-III.A. OVERVIEW

After gathering and verifying required information for an annual or interim reexamination, BCHD must recalculate the family share of the rent and the subsidy amount, and notify the family and owner of the changes [24 CFR 982.516(d)(2), HCV 12-6 and 12-10]. While the basic policies that govern these calculations are provided in Chapter 6, this part lays out policies that affect these calculations during a reexamination.

11-III.B. CHANGES IN PAYMENT STANDARDS AND UTILITY ALLOWANCES

In order to calculate the family share of the rent and HAP amount correctly, changes in payment standards, subsidy standards, or utility allowances may need to be updated and included in BCHD's calculations.

Specific policies governing how subsidy standards, payment standards, and utility allowances are applied are discussed below.

Payment Standards [24 CFR 982.505]

The family share of the rent and HAP calculations must use the correct payment standard for the family, taking into consideration the family unit size, the size of unit, and the area in which the unit is located [HCV GB, p. 12-5]. See Chapter 6 for information on how to select the appropriate payment standard.

When BCHD changes its payment standards or the family's situation changes, new payment standards are applied at the following times:

- If BCHD's payment standard amount changes during the term of the HAP contract, the date on which the new standard is applied depends on whether the standard has increased or decreased:
 - If the payment standard amount has *increased*, the increased payment standard will be applied at the *first annual* reexamination following the effective date of the increase in the payment standard.
 - If the payment standard amount has *decreased*, during the term of a HAP contract, the PHA is not required to reduce the payment standard as the HAP contract remains in effect. At the family's *second annual* reexamination, the PHA may, but is not required to, apply the decreased payment standard or may gradually implement the reduced payment standard (See Chapter 6 for the PHA's policy on decreases in the payment standard).
- If the family moves to a new unit, or a new HAP contract is executed due to changes in the lease (even if the family remains in place) the current payment standard applicable to the family will be used when the new HAP contract is processed.

Subsidy Standards [24 CFR 982.505(c)(4)]

If there is a change in the family unit size that would apply to a family during the HAP contract term, either due to a change in family composition, or a change in BCHD's subsidy standards (see Chapter 5), the new family unit size must be used to determine the payment standard amount for the family at the family's *first annual* reexamination following the change in family unit size.

Utility Allowances [24 CFR 982.517(d)]

The family share of the rent and HAP calculations must reflect any changes in the family's utility arrangement with the owner, or in BCHD's utility allowance schedule [HCV GB, p. 12-5]. Chapter 16 discusses how utility allowance schedules are established.

When there are changes in the utility arrangement with the owner, BCHD must use the utility allowances in effect at the time the new lease and HAP contract are executed.

At reexamination, BCHD must use BCHD current utility allowance schedule [HCV GB, p. 18-8].

BCHD Policy

Revised utility allowances will be applied to a family's rent and subsidy calculations at the first annual reexamination after the allowance is adopted.

11-III.C. NOTIFICATION OF NEW FAMILY SHARE AND HAP AMOUNT

BCHD must notify the owner and family of any changes in the amount of the HAP payment [HUD-52641, HAP Contract]. The notice must include the following information [HCV GB, p. 12-6]:

- The amount and effective date of the new HAP payment
- The amount and effective date of the new family share of the rent
- The amount and effective date of the new tenant rent to owner

The family must be given an opportunity for an informal hearing regarding BCHD's determination of their annual or adjusted income, and the use of such income to compute the housing assistance payment [24 CFR 982.555(a)(1)(i)] (see Chapter 16).

BCHD Policy

The notice to the family will include the annual and adjusted income amounts that were used to calculate the family share of the rent and the housing assistance payment. The notice also will state the procedures for requesting an informal hearing.

11-III.D. DISCREPANCIES

During an annual or interim reexamination, BCHD may discover that information previously reported by the family was in error, or that the family intentionally misrepresented information. In addition, BCHD may discover errors made by BCHD. When errors resulting in the overpayment or underpayment of subsidy are discovered, corrections will be made in accordance with the policies in Chapter 13.