


Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Deval L. Patrick, Governor ♦ Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor ♦ Tina Brooks, Undersecretary

**HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM
NOTICE 2011-01
MASSACHUSETTS RENTAL VOUCHER PROGRAM
NOTICE April 2011**

To: Massachusetts HPRP Managers & Regional Housing Agencies

From: Gretchen Weismann, Targeted Programs' Policy, Design and Operations Manager
Mary-Anne Morrison, Director, Bureau of Rental Assistance, Division of Public Housing & Rental Assistance 

RE: **Waiver to exclude wages received from job training programs for HPRP participants in the MRVP STA Program**

Date: April 11, 2011

This notice serves to provide guidance to HPRP providers and Regional Housing Agencies regarding income calculation for HPRP families transitioning onto the MRVP STA program.

Under HUD regulations for HPRP, income earned from a qualifying state or local employment training program with clearly defined goals and objectives can be excluded from an HPRP household's income calculation. However, MRVP guidelines, specifically 760 CMR 6.05 (3) (j), state that such income must be included in income calculation.

We acknowledge that this would represent a significant increase in a household's rent share if they were participating in a qualified job training program such as Commonwealth Corps. Therefore, for HPRP families transitioning to MRVP STA, such income from job training programs may continue to be **excluded** from the household's income calculation in the MRVP STA program.

In a January 31, 2011 waiver requested by the Springfield Housing Authority, DHCD approved the use of HPRP procedures in any instances in which there is a conflict between HPRP and MRVP regulations. The attached waiver requested by HAP, Inc. further clarifies this approval specific to this question of income calculation.

It is our hope that this waiver will prevent such undue hardships for participating families and will remain consistent with the intent of the MRVP STA program.

Attachment: MRVP STA Waiver to HAP



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Deval L. Patrick, Governor ♦ Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor ♦ Tina Brooks, Undersecretary

April 11, 2011

Shannon Porter
Program Director, Rapid Re-Housing
HAP, Inc.
322 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01105

Re: Waiver request for MRVP HPRP Short Term Assistance participants

Dear Shannon,

We have received your April 6, 2011 request seeking to waive parts of DHCD's regulation 760 CMR 6.00 (*Occupancy Standards and Tenant Participation for State-Aided Housing*) that pertain to participants on your MRVP "HPRP Short Term Assistance" Program, specifically section 6.05 (3) (j), the section that discusses exclusions from income/stipends received from various job training programs. The current exclusion language states (*my emphasis added*):

j) Payments for a household member in association with participation in a bona fide program providing training for employment, approved by the Department or sponsored or administered by a government agency, to cover costs related to training or employment, such as transportation, program fees, books, or child care (during training). This exclusion does not apply to wages received through programs for training for employment, such as wages from on-the-job training.

Your request is to waive this last sentence that indicates wage income is not excluded- to instead allow the wage income from job training programs to be excluded.

It is our understanding that under the original federal HPRP Program rules, this income was excluded, and since the new MRVP Program is just a short term six month program, it does make administrative sense to continue this exclusion. Also, continuing the income exclusion would prevent a major disruption for the tenants, whose tenant shares would dramatically rise if the job training income was counted.

Therefore, based on the information you have submitted, I am waiving DHCD Regulation 760 CMR 6.05 (3)(j), which will allow participants on the MRVP HPRP Short Term Assistance Program to continue having income from any job training programs excluded.

If you have any questions concerning this waiver, please feel free to contact Charlie Vasiliades at (617)-573-1236.

Sincerely,

Mary-Anne Morrison
Director
Bureau of Rental Assistance Programs

Waiver for HAP HPRP STA 3-30-11.doc