



Presented by Aida Andujar & Tamara West Technical Advisors, Florida Housing Coalition



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Catalyst Training Schedule



The Coalition is Florida's affordable housing training and technical assistance provider.

www.flhousing.org



Webinar Logistics

- Participants are muted
- Enter your questions in the box in your webinar panel
- This webinar is being recorded and will be available at
 - www.flhousing.org
- A survey will immediately follow the webinar; **please** complete it! Thanks!





Today's Webinar

Pre-Application Steps

Step 1: Application

Step 2: Income Verification

Proficiency in Income Qualification Part 2

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Register Here: https://flhousing.org/event/webinar-proficiency-in-income-qualification-part-2-3/
Topics:
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Step 3: Asset Verification

Step 4: Calculation

Step 5: Certification

Step 6: Award

Overview of Resources for Determining Income

- Code of Fed Regulation: 24 CFR Part 5
- Income and asset inclusions and exclusions
- Acceptable forms of verification
- HUD Handbook 4350.3: Chapter 5, Appendices 3 and 6C
- Income and rent limits chart

SHIP Published 2022 Income and Rent Limits

(subject to change)

https://www.floridahousing.org/docs/default-source/developers-and-property-managers/compliance/limits/income-limits/ship-and-hhrp---2022-combined-income-and-rent-limits-(eff-4-18-2022).pdf?sfvrsn=e039f57b_0

HUD release: 4/18/2022

Effective: 4/18/2022

Florida Housing Finance Corporation
SHIP and HHRP Programs

Income Limit by Number of Persons in Household Rent Limit by Number of Bedrooms in Unit Percentage 10 County (Metro) Category Palm Beach County 22,100 24.850 929 1,106 27.750 32,470 37.190 41.910 46.630 621 752 30% 19.350 Refer to HUD 518 32,200 36.800 41,400 57.050 60.750 64,400 68.080 (W Palm Bch-Boca Raton HMFA) 50% 46.000 49,700 53,400 805 862 1,035 1,196 1,335 1.472 108,928 51.550 58,900 66,250 79,500 85,400 91,300 97.200 103,040 1,288 1,380 2,356 80% 73,600 1,656 1,913 2,135 136,920 145,800 154,560 163,392 90,300 120% 77,280 88,320 99,360 110,400 119,280 128,160 1,932 2,070 2,484 2,871 3,204 3,534 Median: 140% 90,160 103,040 115,920 128,800 139,160 149,520 159,740 170,100 180,320 190,624 2,254 3,349 3,738 4,123

Always check to make sure you are working with the most current income limits.





Survival Tools for SHIP Staff

- www.floridahousing.org
- SHIP Procedures Manual
- SHIP RULE: Chapter 67-37
- SHIP Statute: 420.907
- On-line Web Tutorial: www.flhousing.org
- http://www.flhousing.org/publications/

Survival Tools for SHIP Staff (continued)

- FHC Technical Assistance hotline: 1-800-677-4548
- Local Housing Assistance Plan
- Annual Reports
- Tracking Sheets
- Monitoring Reports





SHIP Procedures Manual

Appendix E Applicant Qualification

This appendix offers guidance about eligibility determination and the documentation of income, assets and other household details. The guidance pertains to the Section 8 income definition that is commonly used by SHIP administrators. However, SHIP allows for several methods of defining income, which are listed in Section 420.9071 of the Florida Statutes: "Annual gross income" means annual income as defined under the Section 8 housing assistance payments programs in 24 C.F.R. part 5; annual income as reported under the census long form for the recent available decennial census; or adjusted gross income as defined for purposes of reporting under Internal Revenue Service Form 1040 for individual federal annual income tax purposes or as defined by standard practices used in the lending industry as detailed in the local housing assistance plan and approved by the corporation. Those who administer SHIP using an alternative income definition may need to contact the Florida Housing Coalition for guidance specific to that alternative income definition.

A. Determining Household Size

Even before beginning to count the household's income, it is important to properly count the number of people in the household. It is essential to accurately determine household size, since program eligibility is "adjusted for family size" (as defined in Section 420.9071 (1) of the Florida Statutes). The median income is based on a four-person household. The income eligibility level is lower for households having fewer than four people, and higher for households with more than four people.





HUD's Online Income Calculator

https://www.hudexchange.info/incomecalculator/

CPD Income Eligibility Calculator

- Performs calculations based on the program selected
- Print out information
- User manual and webinars are available

Three Methods for Determining Income Eligibility

- 24 CFR Part 5 (HOME, SHIP, CDBG)
- IRS FORM 1040 (HOME, SHIP, CDBG)
- Census Long Form (SHIP)

Regardless of definition used... "Income shall be calculated by annualizing verified sources of income...to be received...during the 12 months following the effective date of the determination.



Statutory Intent

"The benefit of assistance provided through the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program must accrue to *eligible persons* occupying *eligible housing*"

Section 420.9075 (4)(j) Florida Statutes

Annual Income Definition (24 CFR Part 5)

All amounts, monetary or not, which:

- Go to, or on behalf of, the family head or spouse (even if temporarily absent) or to any family member.
- 2. Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the household during the 12-month period.
- 3. Annual income also means amounts derived from assets.

Income Qualification Process

Step 1: Application

Step 2: Income Verification

Step 3: Asset Verification

Step 4: Calculation

Step 5: Certification

Step 6: Award









Pre-Application THE FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION

Notice of Funding Availability

- If funding is unavailable due to a waiting list, no NOFA required.
- Advertise in a newspaper of general circulation and periodicals serving ethnic and diverse neighborhoods.
- At least 30 days before beginning application period.

According to SHIP Rule 67-37.005 Advertisement Must Include:

- Projected Amount of the Distribution
- Beginning and end date of application period (or instead of end date state 'stop applications once funds are fully encumbered)
- Local contact person.
- Where to apply

In addition, consider adding Details per Strategy:

- Estimated amount per strategy
- Income categories assisted
- Selection criteria
- Maximum housing value
- Anything else added should be consistent with the LHAP



Waiting List/ Priorities

How is the waiting list kept and who has access to wait list?

Should be a list that cannot be compromised.

Track case status on waiting list.

Priorities must be outlined in the LHAP and agreements with sponsors and subrecipients.

If there is a waiting list, no advertising is required. List must be kept for monitors.



Income Qualification Process

Step 1: Application

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Step 1: Application

- Design application to include all information required
- Application Complete and signed
- Provide a list of documents needed
- Date Stamp/number applications as they arrive

Step 1: Application (continued)

- Keep the applicant informed Preferably in writing. If calls are made, document file.
- Face to face interview with the applicant, zoom or teams meeting.
- The application is signed by all adult household members, including students age 18 and older.



Electronic signatures are acceptable including DocuSign

Included above Applicant Signature is Information about Florida Statute 817

Florida Statute 817 provides that willful *false statements* or misrepresentation concerning income, asset or liability information relating to financial condition is a *misdemeanor of the first degree*, punishable by fines and imprisonment provided under Statutes 775.082 or 775.083.

"I certify that the application information provided is *true and complete* to the best of my knowledge."



The Application Contains...

- Public Records Statement: Household members understand that all documents are subject to Chapter 119 of Florida's public records laws.
- Release of Information: Signed statement by all adult household members consenting to verification of income and asset information.
- Social Security Number: City/County must give written explanation of purpose and authority for collecting social security numbers.

Social Security Cards

- Not required in SHIP File
- Use another identifier for household members
- FL Statutes Section 119.071(5)(a)2.a., (I) and (II): "an agency may not collect an individual's social security number (SSN) unless the agency has stated in writing the purpose for its collection and unless it is imperative for the performance of that agency's duties ... as prescribed by law.





Determining Household Size

- Count as household members:
- Children in joint custody, present 50% or more of the time
- Children away at school who live in household during school recesses
- Children in the process of being adopted
- Temporarily absent family members

Household Members *Permanently* in a Hospital, Nursing Home

- The family decides if such persons are included when determining family size for income limits
- Note: If you count the Household member, You count the income.



Count Foster Children

HUD Handbook 4350.3 Chapter 3:

"The owner must also count all anticipated children. Anticipated children include the following:

- Foster children who will reside in the unit;"
- ALSO: "g. The owner must count foster adults living in the unit."

HUD Handbook 4350.3 Chapter 5:

• "Payments received by the family for the care of foster children or foster adults are not counted."



Income Question

Annual income includes:

- a. Alimony and child support payments
- b. Foster care payments
- c. Medical expenses reimbursed to the family
- d. Regular contributions from organizations
- e. Both a and d



Separated but Not Divorced



Count unless you can document that separation is permanent.

Examples:

- Lease
- · Driver's license
- Vehicle registration
- Homestead
- Tax returns

Household Member in Prison

Best Practice:

- Count as household member if released within 12 months
- Do not count if release date is more than 12 months www.dc.state.fl.us:
 - Home page: "Inmate Population Info Search"
 - Enter name, SS # or birth date & inmate #
 - Print scheduled release date for the file

Boyfriend, Girlfriend or Fiancé

Count if currently part of household or will be residing in home when

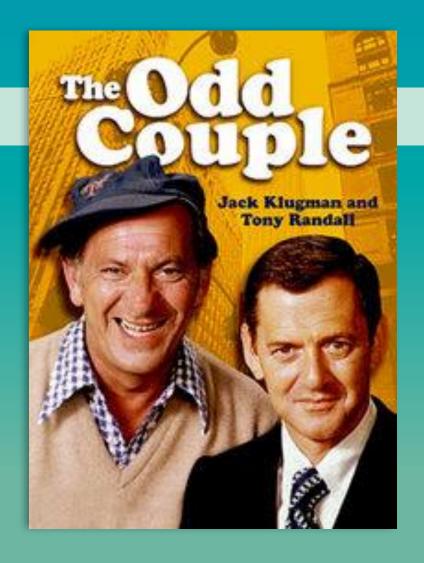
purchased



Roommates and Tenants

Roommates are household members, Tenants are *not*

- Count roommate's income
- Count rent paid by tenant



Live-In Aide

- Is essential to the care, well-being of the person(s)
- Is not obligated to support the person(s)
- Would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services
- Note: Do not include the live-in aide as a household member and do not count their income



Household Size Exercise

David's disability requires that he have assistance with daily activities.

- He will be buying the new home on his own.
- Will have around the clock aides during the week.

 His mother will stay with him on weekends when the aides are off.

Income Qualification Process

Step 1: Application

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Step 2: Income Verification Process

Verify:

- Employment including overtime and tips
- Social Security
- Child Support/Alimony
- Regular Cash Contributions
- Unemployment Compensation

Step 2: Income Verification Methods

Methods:



Acceptable Method: Upfront-Income Verification (UIV)

- UIV is "the verification of income through an independent source that... maintains income information in computerized form..."
- Example: The Work Number

Verification of Employment Form

Please provide information about anticipated employment income during the next 12 months:

Position:	Length of Time E	Employed: Pay Rate:
Pay Frequency	(Hr, Wk, Mo): Hours worked per we	eek
Overtime Pay Rate:	Average Overtime Hours/Wk:	Total Annual
Base Pay Earnings: \$	Total Overtime Base Pay Earnings: \$_	Amount and Frequency of
Other Compensation (bonus, ra	ise, commission, tips): \$	Vacation Pay (Y or N):
	If yes, number of days:	Retirement Account (Y or N):
Amount Acc	_ Total Gross Annual Income, including other	
compensation, for next 12 mont	hs: \$	
Signature of authorized represe		Printed Name
	Title:	



"I Can't Get a Third-Party Verification"

1. Include copy of the date-stamped original request sent

2. Written notes of follow-up efforts

3. Indicate how long the request has been outstanding without response

Document Verification Change: Applicant Provided Document

- Applicant-provided document considered 3rd party verification
- Dated within last 120 days
- Defined in Section 5-13 of HUD Handbook 4350.3, Chapter 5



MORE on Applicant Provided Document

- Examples: Pay stubs, SSA retirement benefit letter, Unemployment benefit notices.
- Most recent 4 to 6 consecutive pay stubs
- Best Practice "specific time frame" such as 2 months

The Work Number



You can pay to access applicant information through the work number.



Tenants who are employed by companies that use The Work Number can obtain paystubs online for free.



They need to set up a log-in and password to obtain the needed documents at www.Theworknumber.com.





CCC Verify

CCC VERIFY
Home, yo Privacy Policy ess Contact Us incations, as well as re-print verifications you have previously purchased.





FOR GOVERNMENT VERIFIERS

Government agencies can access our system free of charge to instantly obtain:

- Employment verifications
- Income verifications
- Health and Dental insurance enrollment status

for current and former employees of our clients.

Example of Employment Wages

INCOME	EMPLOYEE NAME		SOCIAL SEC.ID		EMPLOYEE ID	CHECK No.	PAY PERIOD	PAY DAT
GROSS WAGES 28.00 80 2,240.00 FICA MED TAX 32.48 32.48 FICA SS TAX 138.88 1,38 FED TAX 360.78 3,60 CA ST TAX SDI 20.16 20.16 PAY-STUBS.CO	Constents	rafteno	XX	CX-XX-	062	370050 05/28/15-06/12/15 06/15		15 06/15/1
FICA SS TAX 138.88 1,38 FED TAX 360.78 3,60 CA ST TAX 106.76 1,06 SDI 20.16 20 PAY-STUBS.CO	INCOME	RATE	HOURS	CURRENT TOTAL	DEDUCTIONS	CURREN	IT TOTAL	YEAR-TO-DAT
## AT TAX 360.78 3,60 106.76 1,06 20.16 20	GROSS WAGES	28.00	80	2,240.00	FICA MED TAX	3	2.48	324.80
Heating & Clir Conditioning 106.76 20.16 1,06 20.16 PAY-STUBS.CO					FICA SS TAX	1;	38.88	1,388.80
Heating & Clir Conditioning 20.16 PAY-STUBS.CO			ADVAD		FEDITAX	36	60.78	3,607.81
Heating & air Conditioning PAY-STUBS.CO					CA ST TAX	10	06.76	1,067.57
PAY-STUBS.Co			A	U VI	SDI	2	20.16	201.60
PAY-STUBS.Co			1	Heating & air	Conditioning			
1, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7,				3	3			
1, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7,								
VTD CROSS VTD DEDCTIONS VTD NET PAY TOTAL DEDUCTIONS NET P						F	PAY-STUB	S.COM
	YTD GROSS	YTD DEDCTIONS	× ,	YTD NET PAY	TOTAL			NET PAY 1,580.94

2 months of Pay Stubs				
Paid Bi-weekly				
Gross Amount	\$5,289.33 / 4 = \$1,322.33 \$1,322.33 X 26 = \$34,380.64			
\$1,174.39	Annual Income = \$34,380.64			
\$1,307.76				
\$1,377.93				
\$1,429.25				
<u>Total = \$5,289.33</u>				

2 months of Pay Stubs				
Paid Weekly				
Gross Amount	\$10,485.67 / 8 = \$1,310.71			
\$1,174.39	\$1,310.71 X 52 = \$68,156.92 Annual Income = \$68,156.92			
\$1,307.76	Aimaai meeme			
\$1,377.93				
\$1,429.25				
\$1,247.35				
\$1,375.22				
\$1,247.33				
\$1,326.44				
<u>Total = \$10,485.67</u>				

Examples

- Gross Amount
- Most Current
- Be Consistent
- Annualize



Unacceptable Method: Enterprise Income Verification (EIV)

- EIV is a computer system that contains employment and income information of individuals who participate in HUD rental assistance programs.
- Very few are authorized to review EIV system data—mostly Public Housing Authority staff.
- Do not use EIV for SHIP income verification, since most SHIP staff are not authorized to view it.



Social Security Retirement Payments

- Count the gross amount, before deductions
- Alternative to 3rd party verification: Award Letter from past 12 months.
- Recipient may request 'Proof of Income Letter':

SSA's number (800) 772-1213

Website: www.socialsecurity.gov./myaccount

Social Security Examples

Gross income is: \$1261.60

Less Medicare of: \$ 135.60

Amount received by client is: \$1,126.00

What amount do you use to determine income?

Child Support or Alimony

Count Full Amount of *Court Awarded* support *Unless* ...

A contempt of court hearing is scheduled

Or...

Case has been filed with Department of Revenue's Child Support Enforcement office: **850-488-KIDS**

https://floridarevenue.com/childsupport/contact/Pages/default.aspx



Child Support

What if there's no documentation of child support available?

Reason: No marriage or for another reason.

Require the family to sign a certification stating:

- · The amount of child support received, or
- That no child support is being received.



Income Question

Marie Smith receives child support from her ex-husband in the amount of \$200 a week. Her child support will terminate in 6 months when her son turns 18. The income certifier must:

- a. Project the child support earnings over the next 12 months
- b. Only count the six months of child support anticipated to be received
- c. Do not count the child support since it will end in less than 12 months
- d. Depends on internal program policy





Calculating Income from Self Employed Applicants

- One or two tax returns
- Profit and Loss Statement
 Schedule C of tax return
- Signed statement estimating seasonal earnings or explaining circumstances





Self Employed Applicants Count NET Income from a Business

- Count any salaries distributed to household members
- Check personal tax returns and business tax returns
- If the net income from a business is negative, count it as zero



Periodic Payments are Income

- Annuities
- Insurance policies
- Retirement funds
- Pensions
- Disability or death benefits



Educational Scholarships & Grants

All forms of student financial assistance are *excluded* from annual income, whether paid to the student or directly to the educational institution...

...unless the household is a Section 8 recipient.





- Project benefits for a 12-month period regardless of the termination date
- Document amount of benefits received and frequency

Unemployment and Tax Credit Exclusions

- \$300 per week Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) provided to individuals who are collecting regular unemployment insurance must be *excluded* from a household's annual income calculation.
- In addition, the monthly child tax credit payment of up to \$300 per week that will be provided by the "American Rescue Plan Act" (ARPA) from July 2021 through December 2021 is also exempt from household income calculations.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

Are included as income





- Count <u>regular</u> contributions/gifts from persons not living in the unit.
- · Include rent, utilities paid on behalf of family.
- If a non-household member provides groceries, do not count.

Common Income Exclusions

- Food Stamps or Meals on Wheels program
- Student financial assistance: scholarships & grants
- Earned income in excess of \$480 for full-time student or adopted child assistance
 - * *Unless* student is the head of the family, spouse, co-head

- Hostile fire military pay
- Inheritances, insurance payments, lump sum SS/SSI
- Live-in-aide income



Specifically Excluded

 Major disaster and emergency assistance received by individuals and families under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Pub. L. 93-288, as amended) and comparable disaster assistance provided by the States, local government, and disaster assistance organizations (42 U.S.C. 5155(d)).

Mortgage Credit Certificate

- Both MCCs and the EIC are tax credits that provide for a reduction in the tax liability. The intent of MCCs is to help lower-income individuals own a home.
- An individual has to file a tax return to benefit from either of those credits.
- This in not considered income.



Homeowner Voucher issued by the Housing Authority considered income?

- No.
- Staff at the Florida Housing Finance Corporation reviewed the information provided by Fannie Mae and HUD for the Section 8 Homeownership Voucher program.
- The compliance staff concluded that this mortgage contribution is a deferred payment loan and that it should be excluded from annual income.

Income from Minors

Earned income of family members under 18 is not counted

• Example: Part time job after school

Benefits or other *Unearned* income of minors *is* counted

• Example: Savings account interest, disability payments



File Guidance

File Checklist

Date stamp all verifications

All documents: signed, dated

Use one method

Be consistent

Have someone else review your calculations

Explain discrepancies



PUBLICATIONS

Access these valuable resources and more under the Publications tab at Flhousing.org













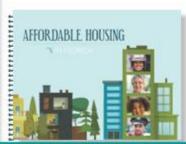










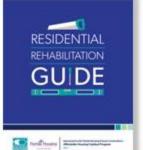




















Please complete the evaluation!



Questions?
Contact Aida at:
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Contact Tamara at: west@flhousing.org 850-518-2235

Technical Assistance Hotline:1-800-677-4548