

## **Guide Notice to Residents**

Rural Development is implementing a wage and benefit matching system. The goal of this system is to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in Federal programs. This notice is to inform you about the program and how it may affect you.

Beginning on [insert appropriate date], Rural Development will start receiving wage and benefit information from the Missouri Employment Security. This information will be shared with the owners and management agents servicing your housing development. This information may then be compared against information provided on your Tenant Certification (Form RD 1944-8). Whenever differences exceed \$480 annually, or result in the government providing unauthorized assistance in the form of rental subsidy, you may expect to be contacted for an explanation.

Rural Development assumes Tenant Certifications are completed as accurately as possible. However, misunderstandings and honest errors do occur. Unfortunately, there are also those who will report wrong information in order to qualify for Federal benefits. The objective of the record check is to make sure that those needing assistance can receive assistance, while those who do not need assistance can be stopped and made to repay improperly received benefits.

Rural Development will implement a wage and benefit matching system fairly. Therefore, whenever a new or renewed Tenant Certification is completed, it will be subject to verification by the Agency and the owner or management agent servicing your housing development. If a problem is suspected, you will be contacted and asked to provide an explanation. If disagreements arise, you will be informed of your right to file a grievance under RD Instruction 1944-L. A copy of the grievance procedure is available from the owner or management agent servicing your housing development.

You can update or correct your existing Tenant Certification until [insert 45 days from the date the notice in Exhibit C was forwarded to owners and management agents]. Of course, the updated and correct Tenant Certification may result in changes to the Federal housing benefits your household is entitled to receive. However, any adjustment may be made without fear of repaying any benefits received in error, for the period of time before the Tenant Certification was changed.

Rural Development may use information reported on the Tenant Certification (Form RD 1944-8) to determine eligibility for Federal benefits, verify compliance with program requirements, and recover improper payments from current or former beneficiaries.

If you have any further questions, please contact the owner or management agent servicing your housing development.