Summary of proposed changes to the Sonoma County Housing Authority Administrative Plan December 7, 2021

Chapter 2 – Eligibility for Admission

- 1. Multiple Families in the Same Household (page 2-4). Removes the requirement that households consisting of two families living together must apply for separate assistance.
- 2. Other Criteria for Admissions (pages 2-5 & 2-6). Clarifies that the following criteria are not grounds for denial for Emergency Housing Voucher applicants:
 - **a.** Removal from rental assistance programs due to violation of family obligations under a program
 - **b.** Debts owed to the Housing Authority
 - c. Criminal history related to drug related convictions

Chapter 3– Applying for Admission

- 1. Closing the Waiting List (page 3-4). Wording change to provide clarity. No policy change made
- 2. Initial Application Procedures (pages 3-4 & 3-5).
 - **a.** Clarifies that all application documents will be made available in Spanish. Adds language clarifying that translation services are available upon request.
 - b. Provides clarification that the information on the preliminary application will be used to determine whether or not a household is eligible to be entered into the Waitlist Lottery.
- **3. Removal from the Waiting List and Purging (page 3-5).** Minor wording change from "dropped" from the waiting list to "removed" from waiting list.
- **4.** Completion of Full Application (page 3-6). Adds language regarding alternative methods for initial application interviews. Removes the requirement for all adult household members to attend application interviews.

Chapter 4 – Establishing Preferences and Maintaining a Waiting List

- 1. Waiting Lists (page 4-1 and 4-2). Added a new section for Emergency Housing Voucher Program Waitlist.
- 2. Local Preferences (page 4-3). Updated header to clarify that local preferences apply to the Housing Choice Voucher program.

Chapter 8 – Voucher Issuance and Briefings

- 1. Mover Briefing (page 8-2). Modified wording to provide flexibility as Mover-Briefings are not always necessary.
- 2. Term of Voucher (page 8-3). Modified the initial term of voucher to 120 days to match agency practice.
- **3.** Assistance to All Voucher Holders (page 8-4). Removed the reference to Housing Search Workshops as these are not currently offered due to staffing limitations. When staffing is available in the future, the Workshops will resume.

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- 4. Assistance to Emergency Voucher Holders (page 8-4). Added the acceptable uses for the Emergency Housing Voucher Service Fee Funds
- 5. Voucher Issuance Determination for Split Households (page 8-5). Added clarification that the section applies to Mainstream and Emergency Housing Vouchers households.

Chapter 9 – Request for Tenancy Approval and Contract Execution

1. Eligible Types of Housing (page 9-2). Removing the local requirement for housing to have a "fixed foundation" to expand the types of housing available to Housing Authority clients.

Chapter 10 – Housing Quality Standards and Inspection

1. Biennial HQS Inspections (page 10-3). Expand the requirement for dead-bolt locks to include other comparable locking mechanisms.

Chapter 15 – Denial or Termination of Assistance

1. Grounds for Denial or Termination of Assistance (pages 15-2 and 15-3). Updated to indicate which reasons are not applicable to the Emergency Housing Voucher program.

Chapter 21 – Project Based Voucher (PBV) Program

- 1. Tenant Selection & Waitlist Organization (page 21-10). Provides a mechanism for the Housing Authority to place PBV applicants on the correct bedroom size-specific waitlist if an applicant's family composition changes while on the waitlist or if a clerical error resulted in an applicant placement on an incorrect bedroom size-specific waitlist.
- 2. Utilizing Coordinated Entry System as Waitlist (page 21-11). Updated to include Windsor Veterans Village

<u>Glossary</u>

- 1. Addition of definition of Domestic Violence (Glossary-6)
- **2.** Addition of definition of Human Trafficking (Glossary-8)
- 3. Addition of definition of Sexual Assault (Glossary-13)
- 4. Addition of definition of Stalking (Glossary-13)