

Information Packet

Tidewater at Salisbury

An Affordable Housing Lottery Salisbury MA

This packet contains specific information on the affordable housing program and application process for the affordable rental apartments being offered at Tidewater at Salisbury in Salisbury, MA.

The Town of Salisbury and Tidewater at Salisbury invite you to read this information and submit an application.

Please hold on to this packet until you have leased an apartment as it will be a useful guide throughout the entire process.

The first apartments will be ready for occupancy in September/October 2015.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE DELIVERED BY 2:00 PM, AUGUST 26th 2015 TO SEB

Additional Applications available at www.s-e-b.com/lottery or the Salisbury Public Library (temporarily located on 167 Elm Street in Rangeway Plaza).

For Affordable Unit Information you can call (617) 782-6900

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There will also be an Informational Workshop on July 20th at 6:00 pm in the Tidewater at Salisbury Leasing Office (191 Beach Road, Salisbury) where questions about the lottery and the development can be addressed directly.

GENERAL OVERVIEW AND RENTS

Tidewater at Salisbury is a 210 unit rental apartment community. 26 of these apartments will be made available through this application process to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. Unit features include granite kitchen and bathroom countertops, stainless steel kitchen appliances, walk-in closets, ceramic bathroom floors, one covered parking spot, in unit washer and dryers and private balconies. The property is a luxury community offering one and two bedroom apartment homes located within walking distance to Salisbury Beach, restaurants and shops. Tidewater at Salisbury offers their residents a swimming pool, state of the art fitness center, clubhouse and outdoor grilling area. This luxury community is located close to interstates 495, 95 and the Newburyport Commuter Rail station. Please see www.TidewaterAtSalisbury.com for more details on the development and the units. Smoke Free Community.

Please see www.TidewaterAtSalisbury.com for more details on the development and the units.

The unit mix of the affordable units is as follows:

# of Units	# of Bedrooms	# of Bathrooms	Approximate Size	Rent* <i>(does not include any utilities)</i>
8 <i>(2 of the 8 units are Disabled-Accessible)</i>	1	1	893 sq ft	\$1,235*
18 <i>(2 of the 18 units are Disabled-Accessible)</i>	2	2	1,151 sq ft	\$1,348*

* The rents are set annually using a calculation that determines the “affordable” rent, which is based on the Area Median Incomes for the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy HMFA. Tenants are responsible for paying the full amount of rent each month. Rents are not based on each applicant’s income (unless they already have a Section 8 voucher already or similar). Tenants will be responsible for paying their own utilities. Utility types are: Gas Heat, Gas Water Heating, Electric Cooking, Electricity, Water and Sewer.

Since it is possible that there will be more interested and eligible applicants than available units, the Town and the Developer will be sponsoring an application process and lottery to rank the eligible applicants for the program. The application and lottery process as well as the eligibility requirements are described in this information packet.

Tidewater at Salisbury does not discriminate in the selection of applicants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, ancestry, children, familial status, genetic information, marital status, public assistance reciprocity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran/military status, or any other basis prohibited by law. Persons with disabilities are entitled to request a reasonable accommodation in rules, policies, practices, or services, or to request a reasonable modification in the housing, when such accommodations or modifications may be necessary to afford persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to use and enjoy the housing.

Q: How long will the designated apartments remain affordable?

A: As a **current resident only**, you are considered income eligible for an affordable unit as long as your household earns an income that does not exceed 140% of the current applicable income limit for a household of your size (*see Yearly Eligibility and Rent Review for more details*).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Q: Who is eligible to apply for the affordable apartments in Tidewater at Salisbury?

A: In order to qualify for an affordable unit:

- 1.) Households must have income and assets that qualify within the parameters as highlighted in this section.
- 2.) Household priority will be given based on household composition. For questions on household size and composition, please read “**Household Size and Composition**”.
- 3.) Households cannot own a home, including in a trust, upon move-in. All homes must be sold before leasing a unit.
- 4.) Households, or their families, cannot have a financial interest in the development and a household member cannot be considered a Related Party.

Additionally, some of the apartments will be disabled-accessible. All households may apply for the disabled-accessible apartments but households in need of an accessible apartment will get top priority, regardless if the apartment is designated as local preference or not. For questions on priority by need of a disabled accessible apartment, please read “**Disabled-Accessible Unit Information**”.

Q: What are the income eligibility requirements?

A: To be eligible to lease an affordable apartment, annual household income must be within a particular range, set by maximum and minimum income levels as follows:

Maximum Income

Household Size	Maximum Income Limit
1	\$48,800
2	\$55,800
3	\$62,750
4	\$69,700

To be eligible to apply to lease an affordable apartment, the combined annual income for all income sources of all income-earning members in the household must be at or below eighty percent of median income for Boston-Cambridge-Quincy HMFA. **All sources of income are counted, please see details below.**

Minimum Income

Per the Leasing Office’s policy that is also in place for market-rate apartments, an applicant’s monthly income must be approximately 3 times the monthly rent (the rent to income ratio is 35%). Applicants may make less than the minimum incomes shown below if they have sufficient savings from which they can draw down otherwise, applicants will not be found to be eligible for a lease if they make less than the incomes shown below. **Applicants who have receive a housing subsidy (like Section 8) are not subject to the minimum income requirements** but, like all other applicants, will also have to pass reviews on credit scores, tenant history, and criminal background checks in accordance with DHCD’s requirements regarding same. Please see “Leasing Office Review” in the step-by-step process for more details. **Again, these minimum incomes are not required by the affordable housing program, they are just estimations of minimum incomes required by the leasing office.**

Unit Size	Approximate Minimum Income Limit for households without a housing subsidy
1 BR	\$42,342
2 BR	\$46,217

Q: How is a household’s income determined?

A: A household’s income is the total anticipated amount of money received by ALL members of the household over the next 12 months (starting from the date of application and projecting forward 12 months) based on their current income and assets. In an effort to provide as accurate an income estimation as possible, the Lottery Agent will also review historical income data to provide a basis for future income estimates. Any monies you anticipate receiving in the next 12 months will be counted as income and monies received over the previous 12 months will be analyzed to help estimate future income. This includes, but is not limited to, Social Security, alimony, child support, overtime pay, bonuses, unemployment, severance pay, part-time employment, matured bonds, monies to be received in court settlements, and actual or imputed interest and dividends on bank accounts and other assets. **ALL SOURCES OF INCOME ARE COUNTED** with the exception of income from employment for household members under the age of 18 and any income over \$480/year for full time students who are dependents (but note that all such income must still be documented even if it is exempt from the household income calculation).

It will be assumed that all applicants will continue to receive any monies they have received over the past 12 months unless supporting documentation proves otherwise. It is also not up to the household to determine what monies received over the past year should and should not be counted as their calculated income. Therefore, all monies should be listed on the application and the inclusion of these monies in determining a household’s eligibility will be based on affordable housing guidelines.

Allowable Assets

There is no asset limit for applying households for this development. However, the higher of the actual income earned from assets, or the imputed income of 0.06% of all assets, will be counted as income. Household Assets are calculated at the time of application. Assets may include cash, cash in savings and checking accounts, net cash value of stocks, net cash value of retirement accounts (such as 401k), real property, bonds, and capital investments.

If any household member currently owns property, the total amount of equity in the home shall be added to their total value of assets.

Example: A household has \$8,000 in savings, \$30,000 in a retirement account that they are not drawing down from (\$20,000 net cash value) and a home assessed at \$300,000 on which they currently have \$278,000 remaining on the mortgage (\$22,000 in equity).

<i>Their assets total is:</i>	$\$8,000 + \$20,000 + \$22,000 = \$50,000$
<i>Actual Income from assets is:</i>	$\$300 + \$0 + \$0 = \$300 (A)$
<i>Imputed Income at 0.06% is:</i>	$0.06\% \text{ of } \$50,000 = \$30 (B)$

For this household, \$300 would be added to their income they receive from all other income sources (employment, Social Security, Alimony etc.) as the program takes the greater of (A) actual income from assets OR (B) imputed income from assets.

Q: I cannot withdraw money from my 401k or retirement fund, do I have to include it when I list my assets?

A: Yes. You need to include the *net cash value* of all your current retirement funds. We realize that most retirement funds assess large penalties for early withdrawal but this does not technically mean that you “cannot” withdraw your funds. The post-penalty amount is what you need to provide along with supporting documentation.

Q: If I cannot qualify for a Lease based on my own income or credit history, can I have a co-signer on my Lease?

A: No. Only people who will live in the apartment can sign the lease. Applying households must be able to meet the income qualifications on their own. If someone outside the household is going to help pay the rent, the amount to be paid must be listed as “Periodic Payments” on the Income Table in the Program Application. These payments will be counted towards the applying household’s income.

Q: Do I have to be a resident of the Town of Salisbury to apply?

A: No. All households that meet the income guidelines specified above may apply for an affordable apartment. Applicants that meet the Local Preference requirements will be given the opportunity to lease some, but not all, of the affordable apartments first. For more information on Local Preference, please go to page 17.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND COMPOSITION

Q: How is appropriate household size determined?

A: According to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development guidelines:

Within an applicant pool, priority as set forth below, shall be given to households requiring the total number of bedrooms in the apartment based on the following **criteria**:

1. There is at least one occupant and no more than two occupants per bedroom.
2. A married couple, or those in a similar living arrangement, shall be required to share a bedroom. Other household members may share but shall not be required to share a bedroom.
3. A person described in the first sentence of (2) shall not be required to share a bedroom if a consequence of sharing would be a severe adverse impact on his or her mental or physical health and the lottery agent receives reliable medical documentation as to such impact of sharing.

The following household sizes and compositions will be considered appropriate and given priority for the following apartment sizes (**occupancy restrictions may apply**):

TYPE A

Priority for a 2-Bedroom Unit

- 4 person household: all types
- 3 person household: all types
- 2 person household: 2 heads-of-household under criteria c (described above)
- 2 person household: 1 head-of-household plus one member

TYPE B

Only priority for a 1-Bedroom Unit but may still apply for a 2-Bedroom Unit

- 2 person household: 2 heads-of-household
- 1 person household: all types

Households with a total number of members which exceed the Massachusetts State Sanitary Codes for that particular sized apartment will not be allowed to rent an apartment. **In “The Lottery” in the Step-By-Step Process, you will find a detailed explanation on how priority is given to certain household sizes and compositions.**

Household Size and Composition Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does the unborn child of a currently pregnant household member count towards our household size for income eligibility purposes?

A: Yes. A household may count an unborn child as a household member. You will have to submit proof of pregnancy with all the income and asset documentation that needs to be submitted with your application.

Q: Can a Type B Household apply for a two-bedroom apartment?

A: Yes, but all Type A households in the lottery will be given an opportunity first, regardless of where they are drawn in the lottery. Please see “The Lottery” in the Step-By-Step Process for how order will be given from the Lottery Results.

Q: If I am currently going through a divorce/separation or planning on being divorced / separated soon, can I still apply?

A: For non-homeowners, you will need to provide proof that the separation or divorce process has begun or has already been finalized. The **Program Application** will guide you through the documentation you will need to provide.

If you have only begun considering a divorce or separation, and no legal action has been taken, you cannot apply as a single head-of-household and your application will be reviewed as if your current spouse will be moving into the affordable apartment with you. **For homeowners going through a divorce**, the home must be sold or the divorce must be finalized (as you must be off the deed) before you move-in.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Q: What is the application, selection, and move-in process for the affordable apartments in Tidewater at Salisbury?

A: The following steps outline the entire process of applying for and leasing an affordable apartment. The following pages explain each step in greater detail.

Step 1: Applying for the Affordable Program	thru August 26 th 2015
Step 2: The Lottery	Sept 8 th 2015
Step 3: Waiting Lists	within 3 days of lottery
Step 4: Notification of Lottery Results	within 1 week of lottery
Step 5: Leasing Office Review and Unit Selection	starts 1 week after lottery
Step 6: File Update (<i>only applicable for applicants with move in dates after January</i>)	
Step 7: Yearly Eligibility and Rent Review	30-90 days prior to lease renewal

There will also be an Informational Workshop on July 20th at 6:00 pm in the Tidewater at Salisbury Leasing Office (191 Beach Road, Salisbury) where questions about the lottery and the development can be addressed directly.

Step 1: Applying for the Affordable Housing Program

Once a household reads this Information Packet in its entirety, they will need to fill out a Program Application. The applying household must include all income, asset, tax documentation as directed by the Program Application for every person that will be residing in the apartment. The Program Application must be signed and dated.

The Program Application and Required Documentation must be received (not postmarked) by the Lottery Agent by August 26th 2015. All applications should be sent to:

THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOTTERY

Re: Tidewater at Salisbury

165 Chestnut Hill Ave #2

Brighton, MA 02135

To ensure applications arrive in time, we recommend sending them in at least a week prior to the application deadline. **Late applications will not be accepted- NO EXCEPTIONS!** If you want to ensure your application is received, we recommend sending it by certified mail. The Lottery Agent, Management Agent, Owner and other affiliated entities are not responsible for lost or late applications.

Once a completed Program Application is received with ALL Required Documentation, SEB will determine initial eligibility and compliance.

If the applicant is determined to be eligible for the Lottery, they will receive an **Application Number** in the order in which their completed application was received. The purpose of the Application Number is simply to keep all households names unknown when the Application Numbers are drawn at the lottery.

Households that are deemed ineligible by the Lottery Agent will be notified by mail (or by email if an email address is provided).

Entrance into the Lottery does not guarantee that a household is eligible for an affordable apartment. Please read all of the following steps for further details on the review process.

Q: What happens if I don't submit all necessary documentation or fail to correctly complete my Affordable Housing Program Application?

A: Households that submit incomplete documentation will be mailed a notice detailing the additional documentation that is needed to make their application complete. Their application will remain in an "Incomplete Application Pool" until all requested materials have been received. Households with applications in the Incomplete Application Pool will not be entered into the Lottery. Households not entered into the lottery may be added to the Waiting Lists (created the night of the lottery) by completing a Waiting List Application at the Leasing Office after the lottery date

Step 2: The Lottery

The Lottery will be held on September 8th 2015 at 6:00 pm in the Leasing Office. Households do not need to be present for the Lottery drawings. All Households will be notified of the results by the Lottery Agent (*see Notification of Lottery Results in the following pages*).

There will be two lotteries*, a Local Preference Lottery and an Open Lottery. For Local Preference households, Application Numbers are placed in both Lotteries. For all other households, Application Numbers are placed only in the Open Lottery.

*A third minority lottery drawing will be required to add non-local preference minority households into the local preference pool if the minority representation in the local preference pool is not 27.0% or higher. Please see the bottom of pg 17 for those details.

The Application Numbers of households who qualify for disabled-accessible apartments will be added in with the other Application Numbers in the Open Lottery and (when applicable) the Local Preference Lottery.

For each Lottery, a representative from the City will pull Application Numbers from a box. The Application Numbers are randomly drawn for both of the lotteries and placed in the order drawn on two Lottery Result Lists.

The order drawn does not necessarily reflect the order that households will get to select apartments as Application Numbers of smaller households are mixed in with Application Numbers of appropriately sized households.

Regardless of the order drawn, all households of appropriate size for each apartment size will be given the opportunity to lease an apartment before any smaller household.

For example: A one-person household is the first household drawn in the Local Preference Lottery. They will be given the first opportunity to lease a one-bedroom apartment. However, if they wish to lease a two-bedroom apartment, they will have to wait until all appropriately sized households drawn after them in the Lottery are given the opportunity to lease a two-bedroom apartment.

To help clarify the actual order that applicants will be given the opportunity to lease apartments, Waiting Lists will be created from the Lottery Results Lists (*see next step*).

Step 3: The Waiting Lists

The Waiting Lists will be compiled immediately after the lottery. **The separate Waiting Lists created from the Lottery Results List illustrate the order households will get to choose units based on unit size, household size/composition, and need for a disabled-accessible unit.** The position each household has on the Waiting Lists is determined by the order in which their Application Number is drawn relative to households of similar qualifications (i.e. households of “appropriate size” will be added to the Waiting Lists in the order drawn and then smaller households will be added in the order originally drawn.) *Please see “Household Size and Compositions” for details on Household Types A and B shown below.*

The Local Preference Affordable Units

Waiting List #1 for Four 1BR apartments

Type A and B Local Preference Households (with no priority among household types)

Waiting List #2 for Ten 2BR apartments

Top Tier: Type A Local Preference Households

Bottom Tier: Type B Local Preference Households

The Open Pool Affordable Units

Waiting List #3 for Two 1BR apartments

All Type A and B Households (with no priority among household types)

Waiting List #4 for Six 2BR apartments

Top Tier: All Type A Households

Bottom Tier: All Type B Households

The Disabled-Accessible Affordable Units

Waiting List #5 for Two 1BR disabled-accessible (DA) apartment

Top Tier: All eligible Type A and B Local Preference Households

Bottom Tier: All eligible Type A and B Non-Local Preference Households

Waiting List #6 for Two 2BR disabled-accessible (DA) apartment

Top Tier: All eligible Type A Local Preference Households

Second Tier: All eligible Type B Local Preference

Third Tier: All eligible Type A Non-Local Preference Households

Bottom Tier: All eligible Type B Non-Local Preference Households

Step 4: Notification of Lottery Results

Within two days of the lottery, the Waiting Lists will be sent to every household who was entered into the lottery.

The Lottery Results establish the Waiting Lists. Every household with an Application Number will have a position on at least one Waiting List. Households that qualify for every lottery will have a position on every Waiting List.

Households with a position on the Waiting List that is less than or equal to the number of units available through that Waiting List (called the "Top Households") will be given a specific date before they must make an appointment. The earliest appointments (for the households with the #1 position on each Waiting List) will be a date 7 days after the Lottery. The appointment date for the households behind them will be a date 8 days after the lottery. The households behind them will have a date 9 days following the lottery, and so on, until all the Top Households have appointment dates.

Failure to complete a Lease Application within the given date will result in the removal of their Application Number from the Waiting List.

Households with positions lower on the Waiting Lists will have to wait for the removal of households with a higher position than them before being given an opportunity to lease a apartment. Households with lower positions will be given at least a 5 day notice of their upcoming appointment dates if there is going to be an apartment available for them. Households are removed from the Waiting Lists if the Leasing Office deems that they are not eligible for a lease based on their Lease Application, if a household fails to meet future deadlines for documentation submittal and lease signing, or if a household notifies the Leasing Office that they are no longer interested in leasing an apartment.

Households in the Incomplete Application Pool will not have an Application Number and therefore will not have a position on any Waiting List. They will be added to the bottom of the appropriate Waiting Lists when they eventually submit all required documentation.

Step 5: Leasing Office Review and Unit Selection

The Lease Application review will be the same review that applicants for market-rate apartments undergo, where factors such as Employment history, Credit score/reports, Former lease history, Criminal Background Screening and sufficient income are considered. The Leasing Office can provide more details on their screening process during this step in the process. Co-signers and/or guarantors are not allowed for the affordable units (see page 6). Background checks will meet DHCD's Model Policy Regarding Applicant Screening on the Basis of Criminal Records. In any instance where policy and procedures in the Tidewater Policy differ from the policy and procedures in the Model Policy, the policy and procedures of the Model Policy will be followed. For specific questions about credit and background/criminal issues, households can contact the leasing office.

The unit households apply for must be an apartment size that corresponds to the Waiting List from which they were chosen (i.e. a household with an appointment for a 1BR apartment because of a top position on that Waiting List cannot put down a deposit for a 2BR apartment).

Households will put down a First Month's Rent Deposit when they complete their lease application with the leasing office. The First Month's Rent Deposit will be \$250. If the rental application is denied, this deposit will be returned. If a household does not put down the First Month's Rent Deposit during the time allocated to them, they will be removed from the Waiting List and will no longer be able to immediately lease an apartment. Please call the leasing office for more details. At lease execution/move in, the following will be collected from Households:

- **First Month's Rent.** The First Month's Rent Deposit will be credited to your first month's rent on move in date once all parties have executed the lease agreement. If your application is approved in full or with conditions of any sort and you subsequently fail to sign the lease agreement for any reason, the first months' rent deposit of \$250 will be kept as the agreed upon liquidated damages pursuant to 940 CMR 3.17(6)(c).
- **Security Deposit:** For Households who have been screened and confirmed to have acceptable credit, the Security Deposit will be \$500. For Households with Conditional credit, a security deposit of up to 1 (one) month's rent may be collected. Please call the leasing office for more details.

Please note, all income and asset documentation must be at least 6 months current at the time of move-in. If the date a household is scheduled to move into their affordable unit is more than that, another review of eligibility may be required prior to move-in.

Q: If I cannot qualify for a Lease based on my own income or credit history, can I have a co-signer on my Lease?

A: No. Only people who will live in the apartment can sign the lease. Applying households must be able to meet the income qualifications on their own. If someone outside the household will help pay the rent, the amount to be paid must be listed as "Periodic Payments" on the Income Table in the Program Application. These payments will be counted towards the applying household's income. Guarantors and co-signers will not be allowed.

Step 6: File Update
(applicable for applicants with move-in dates after
January)

Households with move-in dates prior to January will skip this step.

As all income and asset documentation must be 60 days current from the date of request and approximately 6 months current at the time of move-in, households with move-in dates after January will be required to re-submit income, asset and tax documentation to SEB prior to move-in.

All households must maintain affordable housing eligibility until they move in!

Once a household has been approved by the Leasing Office, given a move-in date and put down their deposit, SEB will contact them about preparing for this File Update. The File Update will be done approximately 60 days prior to their move-in date. Households failing to complete the File Update, or households who are found to be program ineligible at their move-in date, will not be allowed to move into their affordable apartment.

Step 7: Yearly Eligibility and Rent Review

After a household has moved in and approximately 90 days before lease renewal, tenants of affordable apartments will need to submit updated income and asset documentation to the Leasing Office so they can ensure continued eligibility under the affordable housing guidelines. Tenants will not be able to renew Leases until all required documentation has been submitted. Records of taxes, pay-stubs, bank statements and asset statements should be maintained while living in the affordable apartment.

Q: How long can I lease my affordable apartment?

A: As a **current resident only**, you are considered income eligible for an affordable apartment as long as your household earns an income that does not exceed **140% of the current year's income limit** for a household of your size.

Using the Current Income Limits as an example:

Household Size	Current Income Limit for New Applicants	Income Limit for Current Tenants (140% of Current Income Limit)
1	\$48,800	\$68,320
2	\$55,800	\$78,120
3	\$62,750	\$87,850
4	\$69,700	\$97,580

According to the table above for the years shown, if a household's income exceeds the Income Limit for Current Tenants at the time of their renewal, their apartment shall still remain affordable until the next available market rate apartment with the same or greater number of bedrooms is rented at an affordable price to an affordable program-qualified tenant, at which point the apartment of the tenant with earnings exceeding the Income Limit for Current Tenants will be rented at market rates. The household with earnings exceeding the Income Limit for Current Tenants can choose to stay in their apartment, yet would then have to pay the market rate rent.

Q: Will my rent increase each year, and if so, by how much?

A: Rents may increase a few percentage points if Boston-Cambridge-Quincy HMFA Area Median Income increases or the costs of utilities in Salisbury decreases. Likewise, if the Boston Area Median Income decreases and the costs of utilities increases, **rents will decrease**.

LOCAL PREFERENCE INFORMATION

Q: What is Local Preference?

A: The Town of Salisbury has established a local preference for 70% of the affordable apartments. Local Preference will be given as described in The Lottery in the step-by-step process. An applicant qualifies for local preference if the applicant or a member of their household is a current resident of the Town of Salisbury OR is an employee of the Town of Salisbury.

Q: Do households which meet all Local Preference criteria get priority over households which meet only one?

A: NO. As long as a household meets any one of the Local Preference criteria, they will qualify for Local Preference.

Q: What if a household does not qualify for Local Preference?

A: Households without Local Preference will be entered into the Open Lottery and they will be given positions on the Open Pool Waiting Lists.

Q: Does Local Preference get priority over a household in need of a disabled-accessible (DA) apartment?

A: No. The DA apartments will be made available to non-Local Preference households in need of a DA apartment regardless of household size and composition *before* being made available to Local Preference households who do not need the unit features.

Q: Does Local Preference take priority over household size/composition?

A: Yes. For Example, on Waiting List #2 (local preference pool for the 2BR units), if there are not enough eligible Type A Local Preference Applicants, the home will be made available to a Type B Local Preference household before being made available to an "appropriately" sized non-Local Preference Household.

Adjustments in the Local Preference Pool

As stated by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, "If the percentage of minorities in the local preference pool is less than the percentage of minorities in the surrounding HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) defined area, the following adjustments will be made to the local preference pool. The Developer will hold a preliminary lottery comprised of all minority applicants who did not qualify for the local preference pool and rank the applicants in order of the drawing. Minority applicants should then be added to the local preference pool in order of their rankings until the percentage of minority applicants in the local preference pool is equal to the percentage of minorities in the surrounding HUD-defined area." The Percent Minority for the Metropolitan Statistical Area of Boston is 27.0%. This is the minimum percentage of minority applicants that must be in the local preference pool. Minority applicants are defined as a person who is a member of the following groups: Black or African American; Asian; Native American or Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; or other (not White); and the ethnic classification Hispanic or Latino.

DISABLED-ACCESSIBLE UNIT INFORMATION

Q: Who qualifies for a disabled-accessible (DA) apartment?

A: According to *Mass Access: The Accessible Housing Registry*, “units that are barrier-free are accessible to people with disabilities that are wheelchair users, but could also be used by people of different types of disabilities. For example, a person of very short stature, a person with a brain injury or stroke, severe cardiac or respiratory problems, or a person with limited standing, walking, or reaching ability, may use the design features of a wheelchair accessible unit.” Verification from a doctor or other medical professional, a peer support group, a non-medical service agency, or a reliable third party who is in a position to know about the individual’s disability may be requested. Proof of receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits is also sufficient.

Q: How are disabled-accessible apartments awarded?

A: Waiting Lists #5 and #6 will be for the DA apartments. The households with the top positions on those Waiting Lists will be given the first opportunity to lease the DA apartments. ONLY HOUSEHOLDS WHO NEED THE FEATURES OF A DISABLED ACCESSIBLE UNIT WILL BE ON WAITING LISTS #5 AND #6.

Q: Can households that qualify for a DA apartment also apply for a non-DA apartment?

A: Yes. Households that qualify for a DA apartment will also have positions on the Waiting Lists for non-DA apartments depending on what unit size they are applying for. If they reach the top position on a Waiting List for a non-DA apartment before they reach the top position for a DA apartment, they will have to decide if they want to lease a non-DA apartment or wait until they have a top position on a Waiting List for a DA apartment.

Q: What happens if there are fewer disabled-accessible qualified applicants than disabled-accessible apartments at the time of the Lottery?

A: If there are not enough qualified applicants on the Disabled Accessible Waiting Lists, the apartments will be made available to the top applicants on the Waiting List that have the same unit sizes (and, if applicable, local preference priority).

Q: Who is entitled to request a reasonable accommodation?

A: Persons with disabilities are entitled to request a reasonable accommodation in rules, policies, practices, or services, or to request a reasonable modification in the housing, when such accommodations or modifications may be necessary to afford persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to use and enjoy the housing.