

(3) "Persons of eligible income" means persons who individually or as part of a family unit lack sufficient income or assets to enable them, without financial assistance, to live in decent, safe, and sanitary dwellings without overcrowding.

(b) (1) The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County shall:

(i) Adopt all policies, rules, regulations, or amendments that are necessary for the implementation of federally or State assisted housing programs; and all policies, rules, regulations, and amendments that are necessary for the implementation of locally funded housing programs undertaken pursuant to this article;

(ii) Establish an upper income limit. In the case of special projects, the commission may establish exceptions to the upper income limits; and

(iii) Review and approve all projects proposed by the housing authority of Washington County prior to commencement of the project.

(2) This subsection shall be inapplicable if its application would disqualify this State or any county from receiving any federal funds.

(c) The housing authority of Washington County, in addition to the powers enumerated in this article and provided by local law, subject to the authority of the Board of County Commissioners as set forth in subsection (b) of this section, may:

(1) Make mortgage loans and make rent subsidy payments to persons of eligible income;

(2) Make construction loans and long-term mortgage loans to any person, firm, partnership, association, joint venture, or corporation, public or private, to produce housing for persons of eligible income; or

(3) Waive income limits for persons 65 years or older.

(D) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE POWERS ENUMERATED IN THIS ARTICLE, THE AUTHORITY MAY EXERCISE ITS POWERS AS GRANTED BY THIS ARTICLE IRRESPECTIVE OF THE FACT THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES MAY ~~SUBSTANT~~ DISPLACE OR LIMIT FREE ECONOMIC COMPETITION.

(2) THE POWERS GRANTED TO THE AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED:

(I) TO GRANT TO THE AUTHORITY POWERS IN ANY SUBSTANTIVE AREA NOT OTHERWISE GRANTED TO THE AUTHORITY BY OTHER PUBLIC GENERAL OR PUBLIC LOCAL LAW;