

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER A PROGRAM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LOWER INCOME HOUSEHOLDS BY PROVIDING FIXED MONTHLY RENTAL ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS TO OR ON BEHALF OF ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.

2-603.

THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH:

(1) INCOME LIMITS FOR ELIGIBILITY OF LOWER INCOME HOUSEHOLDS, WHICH MAY NOT EXCEED 30 PERCENT OF THE STATE OR AREA MEDIAN INCOME, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER;

(2) THE MAXIMUM TIME PERIOD FOR THE PROVISION OF ALLOWANCES TO A SPECIFIC HOUSEHOLD, WHICH SHALL NOT EXCEED 12 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS EXCEPT WHEN THE SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT UNDUE HARDSHIP WOULD RESULT IF ASSISTANCE IS TERMINATED;

(3) THE MAXIMUM TOTAL RENT FOR AN ASSISTED UNIT, THE SIZE OF AN ASSISTED UNIT, AND THE AMOUNT OF THE MONTHLY RENTAL ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

(I) REGIONAL VARIANCE WITHIN THE STATE;

(II) EXPECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL RECIPIENT INCOME BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE;

(III) TYPICAL RENTAL COSTS; AND

(IV) ANY OTHER FACTOR RELATIVE TO INCOME OR RENTAL COSTS;

(4) MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ELIGIBLE HOUSING UNITS; AND

(5) A METHOD OF SELECTING LOCATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM THAT INSURES THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS AMONG THE VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE STATE.

2-604.

HOUSING RENTAL ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS MAY ONLY BE GIVEN TO OR ON BEHALF OF:

(1) HOMELESS PERSONS WHO:

(I) DO NOT HAVE PERMANENT HOUSING;

(II) HAVE INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO SECURE SUCH HOUSING;

(III) CANNOT BE SERVED BY A FEDERAL OR MORE COST EFFECTIVE STATE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; AND