

NOTICE TO APPLICANTS WITH DISABILITIES REGARDING REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

Berkshire Housing Services, Inc., Inc. does not discriminate against applicants on the basis of their race, creed, color, religion, sex, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, marital or familial status, disability, age, receipt of public assistance or sexual preference in its management of rental housing. Consistent with applicable law, Berkshire Housing will provide a reasonable accommodation to applicants if they or any household members have a disability or handicap and if the reasonable accommodation is necessary to provide an equal opportunity to use and enjoy the housing.

A reasonable accommodation is some modification that Berkshire Housing can make to the apartments it manages or in its rules or procedures that will assist an otherwise eligible applicant with a disability to take advantage of the housing, provided that the change does not pose an undue financial or administrative burden to Berkshire Housing or require a fundamental change in its program. A reasonable accommodation may include providing an appropriate auxiliary aid to an applicant with a disability where such assistance is necessary to enable effective communication with the applicant.

Examples of reasonable accommodation include:

- Installing flashing light smoke detectors in an apartment for a household with a hearing-impaired member;
- Making a sign language interpreter available to a hearing-impaired applicant during an interview.

An Applicant household that has a member with a disability must still be able to meet essential obligations of tenancy. For example, they must be able to pay rent, to care for their apartment, to report required information to Berkshire Housing to avoid disturbing their neighbors, etc. This requirement takes into consideration whether any requested reasonable accommodation would permit the applicant to be considered eligible.

If you or a member of your household have a disability or handicap and think you might need or want a reasonable accommodation, you may request it at any time in the application process or after you have moved in. We prefer that you make the request by completing our Request for Reasonable Accommodation form, but you do not have to use our form to make the request. Of course, if you would prefer not to discuss your disability with Berkshire Housing Services, that is your right.

You can get a Request for Reasonable Accommodation form at Berkshire Housing Services' office, at One Fenn Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201 or by calling (413) 499-1630. If you need help filling out the form or need to submit your request in some other way, please call at the above numbers.