

## ***Chickasaw Housing Authority***

### ***Frequently Asked Questions***

#### **General**

**Q: Does the Chickasaw Housing Authority operate the Section 8 Program?**

**A:** No, the Chickasaw Housing Authority only operates the conventional Public Housing Program. If you are interested in the Section 8 Program within Mobile County, you can contact Prichard Housing Authority, Mobile Housing Board, or Mobile County Housing Authority. Contact numbers for these agencies are listed in the phone book.

**Q: How old do you have to be to apply for housing?**

**A:** Nineteen is the minimum age to sign a contract (such as a lease) in the State of Alabama.

**Q: How old do I have to be to qualify to live in senior housing?**

**A:** Sixty-two is the minimum age to qualify for senior housing. The Chickasaw Housing Authority contains 70 apartments designated for elderly living.

**Q: Do I have to be a resident of the City of Chickasaw to be assisted?**

**A:** No, however, local preference is given to persons who live or work in the City of Chickasaw.

**Q: Do you have emergency housing?**

**A:** No. There are no provisions in our policies that allow someone with an emergency to move in before someone else. You must be determined eligible first and then you will be housed in accordance to your position on the waiting list.

**Q: I am homeless, can you help me immediately?**

**A:** No. There are no provisions in our policies that allow someone who is homeless to move in before someone else. You must be determined eligible first and then you will be housed in accordance to your position on the waiting list.

**Q: My family will soon be evicted, can you help me immediately?**

**A:** There are no provisions in our policies that allow someone that is being evicted to move in before someone else. You must be determined eligible first and then you will be housed in accordance to your position on the waiting list.

**Q: How long is the waiting list?**

**A:** The Chickasaw Housing Authority's waiting lists are organized by family or senior housing and bedroom size. The length of time it takes to reach the top of a waiting list will depend on the size of the family, the family's circumstances, and the availability of housing that meets the family's needs.

**Q: I called a week ago and I was number 8 on the waiting list and now I am number 10. What happened?**

**A:** The Chickasaw Housing Authority's waiting lists are not just sorted by the date the application is placed. Local preferences are used to determine waiting list status. In an effort to encourage self-sufficiency, preference is given to family's with wage, social security or disability income. However, do not be discouraged! Eventually, all families that qualify for assistance are housed. Additional preferences are given for veterans and residents of the city.

**Q: Does my income have to be below a certain amount for me to qualify for assistance?**

**A:** Yes, there are income limits that are posted and updated annually. Income limits are specified by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

**Q: What if I owe money to creditors or have a criminal record, can I still be housed?**

**A:** Every applicant is evaluated according to the Chickasaw Housing Authority's screening policies and procedures, which include a criminal background check, a credit history and a former tenancy history. Negative histories related to these criteria may result in application cancellation. If you owe money to the Chickasaw Housing Authority or another federally subsidized housing program, the balance must be paid in full prior to determining eligibility for assistance.

**Q: What forms of payment will the Chickasaw Housing Authority accept?**

**A:** The Chickasaw Housing Authority will accept payment by check, money order, or credit / debit card.

**Vehicles**

**Q: Once I move in to my new apartment, what do I have to do to get a parking permit for my vehicle?**

**A:** The Chickasaw Housing Authority issues parking permits for all motorized vehicles (including motorcycles) that will be parked on streets within the Housing Authority. Parking permits are only issued to Housing Authority residents. Vehicles must be in mechanically operable condition. Individuals applying for parking permits must be able to show that they can legally operate a vehicle on public streets. This includes having a valid driver's license, vehicle registration, valid license plate and liability insurance. The City of Chickasaw Police Department enforces parking ordinances within the Chickasaw Housing Authority. Failure to obtain a parking permit may result in a parking citation and / or towing at the vehicle owner's expense.

**Q: Where can I park?**

**A:** The Chickasaw Housing Authority does not assign parking spaces. Residents are expected to use common courtesies and park in an area adjacent to their apartment. Only street side parking is permissible. If you park your vehicle on a sidewalk, in the grass, or any other undesignated area, you will be fined and/or your vehicle will be towed at your expense.

**Q: Can I wash my vehicle on Chickasaw Housing Authority property?**

**A:** No, water is provided by the Chickasaw Housing Authority at no expense to residents for household needs. Any resident observed to be washing a vehicle on Housing Authority property will be fined according to the schedule of charges.

**Q: Can I repair my vehicle on Chickasaw Housing Authority property?**

**A:** No, this is a lease violation.

**Housekeeping**

**Q: What will happen if my apartment is poorly kept?**

**A:** If your apartment is dirty, cluttered or otherwise poorly attended, you will be warned and expected to correct the problem immediately. If the problem is not corrected and continues, you may be evicted under the terms of your lease agreement for failure to maintain your apartment.

**Q: Can I have a pet?**

**A:** Pets are allowed on a very limited basis with the addition of a pet addendum to your lease.

**Q: Who is responsible for the upkeep of the yard?**

**A:** Each apartment at Chickasaw Housing Authority includes its own yard for the exclusive use of the occupying resident. Generally speaking, each resident is responsible for the upkeep of their area of responsibility, including the yard. Normally, yards will require maintenance no less than once every two weeks. It is up to the resident to determine how to accomplish yard maintenance. Some residents choose to maintain the yard themselves while others choose to contract with a local lawn care professional for the task. The Chickasaw Housing Authority publishes a monthly newsletter that includes the names and numbers of numerous local service providers who have business licenses within the City. However, the Chickasaw Housing Authority does not endorse any service provider.

**Lease Violations**

**Q: Why are some residents evicted?**

**A:** When residents commit criminal activity, fail to pay rent, allow their utility services to lapse, destroy Housing Authority property, or violate other terms of their lease agreement, the Chickasaw Housing Authority may seek an eviction.

**Q: What are considered serious lease violations?**

**A:** Criminal activity, allowing utility services to lapse, fraud, failure to report changes in income or family size accurately and/or timely, destruction of Housing Authority property, poor housekeeping, fighting or other violent activity, threatening the health or general well being of other residents and/or staff are some examples of serious lease violations that may result in eviction.

**Q: What about illegal drug and/or alcohol abuse?**

**A:** The Chickasaw Housing Authority has a ZERO tolerance policy when it comes to illicit drugs. The Chickasaw Housing Authority will evict any resident who engages in illegal drug use or drug related criminal activity. Residents can also be evicted for alcohol abuse if it adversely affects other resident's health, safety or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises.

**Q: What is the Chickasaw Housing Authority position on smoking?**

**A:** Per Department of Housing & Urban Development regulation, smoking inside of and within 25 feet of any public housing apartment has been banned. The lease and house rules contain guidance on the subject of smoking. Residents that are in violation of the no-smoking requirements can be fined and / or evicted.

**Recreation**

**Q: Does the Chickasaw Housing Authority provide any outlets for recreation?**

**A:** The Chickasaw Housing Authority manages two parks, Miller Park & C. E. Burrell Walking Park, that are immediately adjacent to the residential apartments. Park rules are conspicuously posted at each park. The Housing Authority also has a Community Room at the other end of the Administrative Office. Programs that are open to residents are routinely held in this facility with scheduling posted in the monthly Housing Authority newsletter. In addition, the City of Chickasaw sponsors recreational activities and has several other parks throughout the City.

**Q: What about the kids?**

**A:** The City of Chickasaw has an extensive youth program that includes sports, summer camp, and even a public pool. The City Parks and Recreation Department can be contacted at (251) 452-6450 extension 5 for further information. The City School system also offers additional opportunities for youth recreation. The Chickasaw Housing Authority will sponsor the financial costs for resident youth participating in City or School supervised recreational activities. These costs are limited to enrollment fees and are constrained by the budget/federal funding.