



Housing Authority of the City of Austin

Rental Assistance Demonstration Project (RAD)

General Information

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) is breaking ground with a bold new initiative to preserve public housing in Austin and improve the lives of more than 4,300 Austinites who rely on that public housing.

By participating in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) new program known as the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), HACA will be able to finance critically needed improvements to its aging properties and guarantee they'll be available to low-income residents for the next 40 years. RAD will create more opportunities for residents for housing choice going forward.

RAD Overview

RAD was initiated by HUD to address U.S. public housing's \$26 billion backlog of needed repairs and improvements. Under RAD, existing (and declining) public housing subsidies are converted into rental assistance contracts for each property. This allows housing authorities to finance the rehabilitation and preservation of aging public housing properties.

What RAD Means for Residents

- **Protections:** Every resident has the right to stay in public housing and return to an upgraded unit in their original property. Rents will still be based on 30% of adjusted household income, and nobody will need to be rescreened for eligibility. HACA will maintain a high level of services for its residents.
- **Improvements.** Most properties will receive needed improvements, and many units will be thoroughly upgraded, modernized, and made more energy-efficient. Residents will have a voice in planning these improvements to make sure their needs are met.
- **Choices.** Going forward, current residents and new applicants will be able to apply to live at the specific properties of their choice, rather than being placed in the first available unit. Residents who remain in one RAD property for two years will be able to apply for a Housing Choice Voucher that will allow them to seek housing in the private rental market.

Learn More About RAD

If you are a HACA public housing resident and have questions about how RAD will impact you and your family, please call the RAD Hotline at 1-(844) HACA-RAD (422-2723) or email us at hacarad@hacanet.org. You can find more information, including detailed FAQs, online at www.hacarad.org.