

NEWSLETTER

November, 2017

HELPING PEOPLE FROM PUERTO RICO & US VIRGIN ISLANDS

By: Alex Corrales
Executive Director

Over the last month, the WHA has been working with the City of Worcester and numerous service agencies to find ways that we can assist victims of Hurricane Maria that are planning on coming to Worcester.

If you have a loved one who was impacted by the hurricane and needs assistance, this notice will provide you with useful information.

REGISTER FOR SERVICES

All hurricane victims should contact **CENTRO** at (508) 798-1900 as they are Worcester's agency of contact and will provide information on all services needed including emergency housing, school registration for children, and FEMA benefits. Make sure once your loved one arrives in Worcester, they contact CENTRO immediately for help.

APPLYING FOR HOUSING

Any individual or family interested in housing can apply at 40 Belmont Street or online at www.worcester-housing.com. The WHA has implemented a new admissions preference that gives priority to applicants that are victims of Hurricanes Maria, Irma and Harvey. This preference will expire at the end of November.

Please keep in mind that the WHA is not an emergency housing agency or shelter. This means that when someone applies for housing, they are subject to our admissions process, which can take some time. We will process applicants as quickly as possible and even when a person is approved, there will be a wait for an apartment to become available. However, please make sure your loved ones apply immediately so we can begin processing their application.

PEOPLE STAYING IN YOUR APARTMENT

The WHA recognizes that some of our residents will want to allow their loved ones to stay in their apartment for some time while they find suitable housing. **In an effort to help, the WHA is allowing families to host those impacted by the hurricane and extend the guest policy to 45 days. However, prior written permission from the WHA is required.**

If you are interested in having someone stay with you for a short time, please follow these steps:

- Contact your management office to set up an appointment;
- At the meeting, provide the names of the individuals that you are requesting to stay with you;
- The WHA will approve your request if it does not create overcrowding or health & safety conditions.
- At the expiration of the 45 days, the WHA will meet with you and consider requests for further extensions.

Please keep in mind, though, that if you do not report and request permission to allow individual(s) to stay in your apartment for a longer period than allowed, you are considered in violation of your lease. Residents in violation may not be allowed to request extensions of stay for their loved ones.

The WHA is certainly sympathetic to our residents wanting to assist loved ones by allowing them to stay in their apartments. However, we also have to ensure that this assistance is a temporary measure while those in need find permanent housing.

We appreciate your cooperation with this matter and please feel free to contact your management office for further information.