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Relay #: 711

## MCKEAN COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

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### ACCESSIBLE PARKING POLICY

It is the policy and intention of the McKean County Housing Authority (“MCHA”) to provide Accessible Parking as a reasonable accommodation for an MCHA client who has a disability (“Family Member With a Disability”) and a medical need for Accessible Parking in order to fully enjoy MCHA’s housing, services or programs.

As required by federal law, in all areas where MCHA provides parking spaces MCHA will strive to maintain at least 2% of those spaces as fully-accessible parking spaces. Fully-accessible parking spaces are those that meet federal, state and local accessibility standards in size, signage, slope, and other criteria and are located on an accessible route to wheelchair users. MCHA will make at least one (1) space for each type of parking accessible at each parking location, even if this number exceeds 2%. MCHA will not charge any fee for providing an accessible parking space or area. MCHA will provide appropriate signage for its fully-accessible and designated parking spaces. MCHA will use best efforts to ensure that MCHA residents have meaningful access to such spaces through the use of notices and towing, if necessary.

Depending upon the needs of the Family Member With a Disability, MCHA will offer different parking accommodations for individuals with disabilities, such as 1) earmarking an existing regular parking space in a specific location for exclusive use by the Family Member With a Disability and/or his/her transporters, 2) providing access to a fully-accessible parking space, 3) designating a fully-accessible parking space for use by the Family Member With a Disability and/or his/her transporters, or 4) providing access to a safe area designated for “pick up” and “drop-off.” When appropriate and feasible, MCHA will transfer a family with a Family Member With a Disability to a unit that is closer to accessible parking or pick up areas.



All individuals requesting Accessible Parking will be required to verify, through a knowledgeable, licensed third-party professional, that they have a disability and that there is a medical need for their requested accommodation in order for them to fully enjoy MCHA's housing, services and/or programs. The need and eligibility for accessible parking will be verified initially, as well as at each of the family's regular re-examinations. The knowledgeable professional (verifier), will verify:

- 1) That the Requestor meets the requisite definition of "disabled;"

MCHA will consider an individual to have a "disability" when s(h)e: 1) has a physical, mental, emotional, developmental, or cognitive impairment that substantially interferes with one or more major life activities; 2) has a record of such an impairment, or 3) has been regarded by MCHA as having such an impairment. MCHA also will consider individuals receiving disability-related financial assistance from the federal Social Security Administration (such as SSI or SSDI) as having a "disability."

- 2) That the Requestor's ability to fully enjoy MCHA's housing, housing services, or programs is dependent upon the Requestor having some form of Accessible Parking and why use of regular parking is not sufficient; and
- 3) The specific form of Accessible Parking that is necessary, and why.

For health and safety reasons, MCHA will strive to provide accessible and/or designated parking to those most in need of such parking based on their disability. MCHA will not withdraw existing parking privileges in order to redistribute them to persons requesting accommodations. However, persons with disabilities may supplant people on the parking waiting list who do not have disabilities.

In the event that the supply of accessible or designated parking spots does not meet the demand, following is the priority for awarding spaces, from highest priority to the lowest:

- Requests from individuals with disabilities with an urgent need
- Requests from individuals with disabilities currently living in fully-accessible housing units
- Requests from individuals with disabilities who are unable to walk
- Requests from individuals with disabilities with a moderate need
- Requests from individuals with disabilities who walk with assistance
- Requests from individuals with disabilities who are blind
- Requests from individuals with disabilities who are sight impaired
- Requests from individuals with disabilities who walk without assistance in date/time order of their request
- Parking requests from people without disabilities in date/time order of their request

As a condition to approval of Accessible Parking, MCHA will require the head of household and Family Member With a Disability to sign an Accessible Parking agreement and lease addendum. MCHA has the right to withdraw approval of Accessible Parking when there is a breach of the Accessible Parking Agreement, such as for non-use, or for allowing use by non-household members, etc.

[MCHA's general Reasonable Accommodations/Modifications Policy \(Form RA-1\) generally applies to this policy, and is fully incorporated herein by reference.](#)

A Head of Household has the right to dispute MCHA's actions with regard to their request, the withdrawal of approval for Accessible Parking, or other Accessible Parking-related action in accordance with MCHA's administrative review policy.