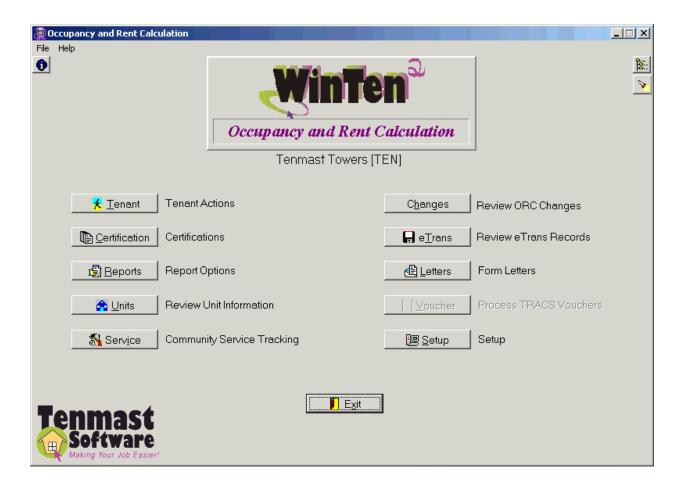
# WinTen<sup>2</sup> Occupancy and Rent Calculation: Certifications

# **Preliminary User Manual**

User Manual Edition: 11/11/2005



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# CHAPTER 1

# Community Service and Economic Self-Sufficiency

HUD mandates that all non-exempt adult residents of public housing meet minimum monthly requirements for performing community service and/or economic self-sufficiency activities. These requirements must be a stipulation of each resident's lease. HUD further mandates that your agency have a local Community Service and Economic Self Sufficiency Policy for administering these requirements.

The ORC program allows you to track your residents' activities to meet the requirements of your policy.

For more information on HUD's requirements for such activities, please see the *HUD Community Service and Economic Self-Sufficiency Rules* appendix to this manual.

The remainder of this chapter walks you through using the ORC program to track resident compliance.

# Maintain Community Service Information

We will walk through using the Maintain Community Service screen to track your residents' community service and economic self-sufficiency activities.

#### Note:

The ORC program uses the term "community service" to refer to both community service activities and economic self-sufficiency activities. From this point forward, this manual does the same.

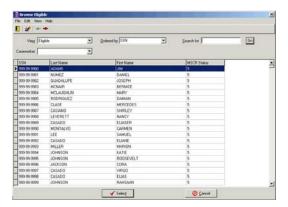
You can access the Maintain Community Service screen either from the Browse Community Service screen or from the Household tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

# To Access from the Browse Community Service Screen

Follow these steps to access the Maintain Community Service screen from the Browse Community Service screen.

#### To Open the Browse Community Service Screen:

✓ Press I or click the Service button on the Main Menu.



# To Open the Maintain Community Service Screen:

- ✓ Click to select the resident for whom you wish to maintain community service activity.
- ✓ Press Alt+T or click the Select button.

#### Hint:

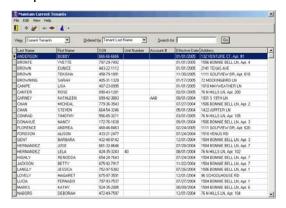
You can also double-click a resident's record to select it and open the Maintain Community Service screen.

# To Access from the Household Tab of the Tenant Detail Screen

Follow these steps to access the Maintain Community Service screen from the Household tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

# To Open the Household Tab:

- ✓ Press T or click the Tenant button on the Main Menu.
- ✓ The Tenant Browse Form opens.

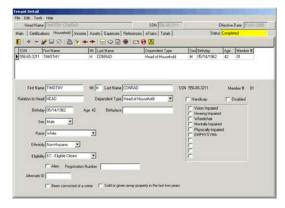


- ✓ Select the tenant for whose household you wish to maintain community service activity.
- ✓ Press Alt+E or click the Edit/Review button.

#### Hint:

You can also double-click a tenant's record to select it and open the Tenant Detail screen.

- ✓ The Tenant Detail screen opens.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+Tab or click the Household tab (at the upper left) on the Tenant Detail screen.

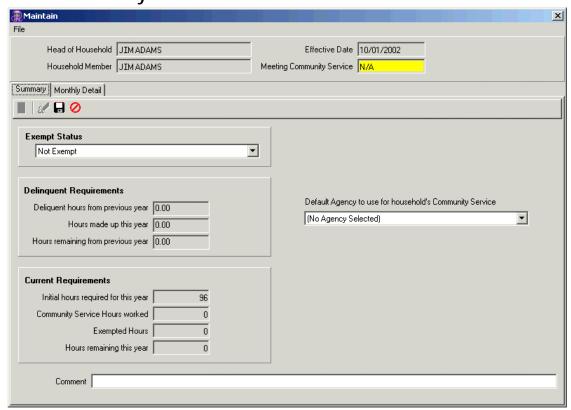


# To Open the Maintain Community Service Screen:

- Click to select the household member for whom you wish to maintain community service activity.
- ✓ Click the Community Service icon on the Household tab.



# Maintain Community Service Screen



The Maintain Community Service screen has two tabs: Summary and Monthly Detail.

You can use the Summary tab to maintain a resident's exempt status and view a summary of activity hours.

You can use the Monthly Detail tab to maintain a resident's activities on a monthly basis. We will discuss this in the next section. (See *Maintain Monthly Community Service Information*.)

Four non-editable fields also appear at the top of this screen: **Head of Household**, **Household Member**, **Effective Date**, and **Meeting Community Service**.

# Head of Household and Household Member

These fields identify the resident whose community service activities you are maintaining and the head of that resident's household.

#### **Effective Date**

This field indicates the latest date for which you have entered community service information for this resident.

# Meeting Community Service

This field indicates whether this resident is meeting community service requirements, based on the information on the Summary and Monthly Detail tabs.

Any resident can have one of four community service statuses: Yes, No, Pending, or Exempt.

Yes or No, respectively, means the resident is or is not meeting the requirements. Pending means you have not yet verified the resident's service. Exempt means the resident is exempt from the requirements.

We will first walk through using the Summary tab to maintain summary activity information.

# Maintain Summary Community Service Information

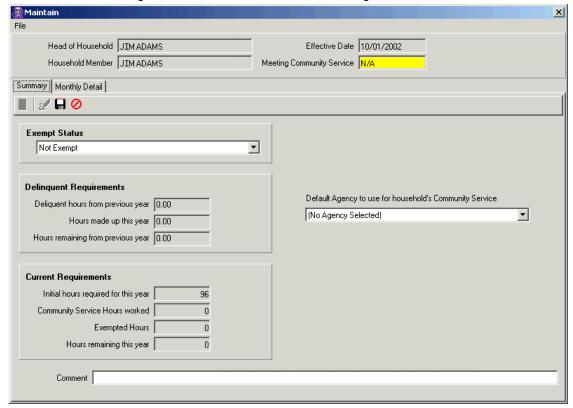
Summary Community Service information includes a resident's exempt status and a summary of activity hours.

You can maintain this information on the Summary tab of the Maintain Community Service screen.

#### To Open the Summary Tab:

- ✓ This tab appears by default when you open the Maintain Community Service screen.
- ✓ If you have left it, press Ctrl+Tab or click the Summary tab (at the upper left).

# Maintain Community Service Screen: Summary Tab



This tab contains five editable data fields: **Exempt Status**, **Delinquent hours from previous year**, **Hours made up this year**, **Default Agency**, and **Comment**. Exempt Status is required.

This tab also contains non-editable fields showing **Hours remaining from previous year** and **Current Requirements**.

# **Exempt Status**

This field indicates if and why this resident is exempt from community service requirements.

If this resident is not exempt, select "Not Exempt." Otherwise, select the option that best describes why this resident is exempt.

# Delinquent hours from previous year

Enter the total number of hours, if any, this resident failed to meet in the previous year.

# Hours made up this year

Enter the number of the delinquent hours, above, that this resident has performed in the current year.

# Hours remaining from previous year

This non-editable field calculates the number of delinquent hours still outstanding ("Delinquent hours from previous year" minus "Hours made up this year.")

# **Default Agency**

For community service purposes, "agency" refers to the institution, organization, or school at which the resident performs the required activities. Select the agency at which this resident performs most of his or her community service activities, if it appears in this list.

Any agency you select here will be the default agency for each monthly community service activity record you create for this resident on the Monthly Detail tab of this screen. You can change the default as needed for any individual record on that tab.

This field offers the list of outside agencies you have entered in the ORC program. If this resident's agency does not appear as an option for the Default Agency field, you must enter it in your outside agencies list before you can assign it to a Community Service record. (See *Maintain Outside Agencies*.)

#### Comment

Enter any comments or additional information regarding this person's community service status and/or activities that may be helpful for your agency.

# **Current Requirements**

The four fields in this section provide a summary of this resident's activities for the current year. They are based on the information on the Monthly Detail tab; you cannot edit them on the Summary tab.

## **To Edit Summary Community Service Information:**

- ✓ Press Ctrl+E or click the Edit icon.
- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering or editing the information as needed.
- ✓ To save your changes, press Ctrl+S or click the Save icon.
- ✓ To cancel, press Ctrl+Q or click the Cancel icon.

# Maintain Monthly Community Service Information

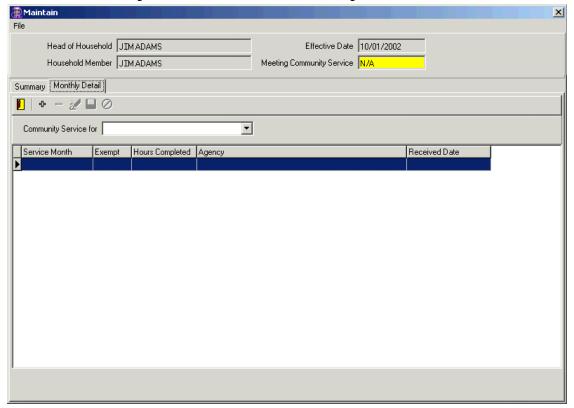
Monthly Community Service information includes a record of a resident's activities for each month.

You can maintain this information on the Monthly Detail tab of the Maintain Community Service screen.

#### To Open the Monthly Detail Tab:

✓ Press Ctrl+Tab or click the Monthly Detail tab (at the upper left) on the Maintain Community Service screen.

# Maintain Community Service Screen: Monthly Detail Tab



This tab contains the **Community Service For** option field and a table of monthly activities.

The monthly activity table displays this resident's activities for the year(s) you have chosen in the Community Service For field. This table contains five editable data fields: **Service Month**, **Exempt**, **Hours Completed**, **Agency**, and **Received Date**. For months when this person is *not* exempt, all of these fields are required. For months when this person *is* exempt, only Service Month, Exempt, and Received Date are required.

# **Community Service For**

Choose whether to view all activity for this resident or only the activity for the current year or the previous year.

#### Service Month

For each record, this is the first day of the month for which you are tracking either activities or exemption.

# Exempt

This field indicates the resident's exemption status for a given service month.

# **Hours Completed**

If this person is not exempt for a given month, this field indicates the number of hours of service he or she performed during the month.

# Agency

If this person is not exempt for a given month, this field indicates the institution, organization, or school at which he or she performed the required activities.

If you have chosen a default agency for this person on the Summary tab, that agency will appear automatically when you create a new monthly record. You can change the default, if necessary.

# **Received Date**

For each record, this is the date on which you received verification of the resident's activities or exempt status.

## To Add a Monthly Activity Record:

- ✓ Press Ctrl+A or click the Add icon on the Monthly Detail tab.
- ✓ Tab or click through the fields in the new row of the table, entering the information. (For months when this person is *not* exempt, all fields are required. For months when this person *is* exempt, only Service Month, Exempt, and Received Date are required.)
- ✓ To save this new record, press Ctrl+S or click the Save icon.
- ✓ To cancel, press Ctrl+Q or click the Cancel icon.

# To Edit a Monthly Activity Record:

- ✓ Select the month you wish to edit.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+E or click the Edit icon.
- ✓ Tab or click through the fields in the table, changing information as needed.
- ✓ To save your changes, press Ctrl+S or click the Save icon.
- ✓ To cancel, press Ctrl+Q or click the Cancel icon.

#### To Delete a Monthly Activity Record:

- ✓ Select the month you wish to delete.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+D or click the Delete icon.
- ✓ Press Y or click the Yes button to confirm the deletion.

# CHAPTER **2**

# Maintain Households

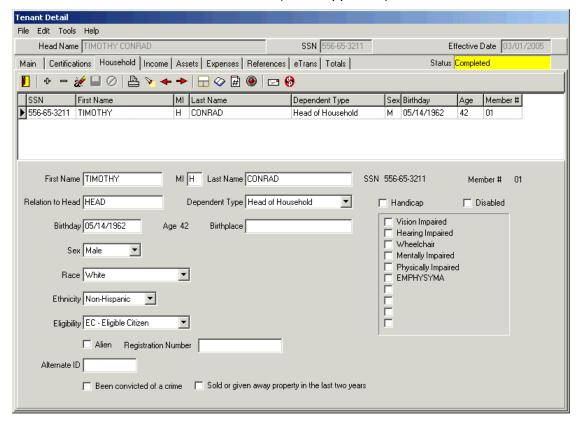
For each of your tenant households, you must create one "household member record" for each person who lives in the household. You will use the Household tab of the Tenant Detail screen to maintain this information.

#### Hint:

You do not have to create the record for the head of household. The program creates this household member record automatically when you first add a tenant record. You can edit this person's information on the Household tab, if necessary.

## To Open the Household Tab:

- ✓ Locate the tenant for which you wish to maintain household members.
- ✓ Open this tenant on the Tenant Detail screen.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+Tab or click the Household tab (at the upper left) on the Tenant Detail screen.



# **Add Household Members**

You will use the Add Household Member wizard to add household member records.

#### To Start the Add Household Member Wizard:

✓ Press Ctrl+A or click the Add icon on the Household tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

# **Use the Add Household Member Wizard**

The Add Household Member wizard will guide you through two steps to add a household member record:

- 1. Enter Household Member Information
- 2. Confirm Household Member Information

We will walk through these steps separately.

# To Move to the Next Step:

✓ Press PageDown or click the Start or Finish button.

# To Move to the Previous Step:

✓ Press PageUp or click the Back button.

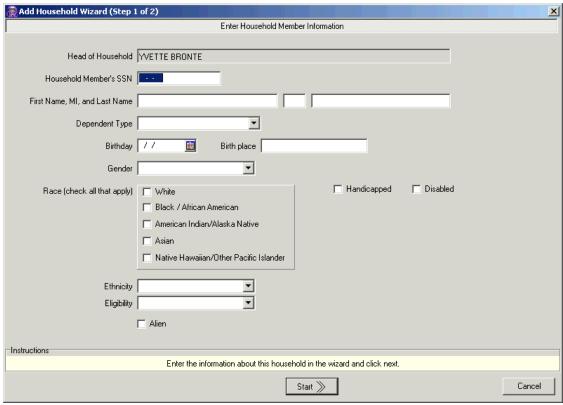
# To Cancel the Wizard at Any Time:

✓ Press Esc or click the Cancel button.

#### Hint:

Until you finish Step 2, you can go back and change any information you have entered.





This step allows you to enter all the information needed to create the household member's record.

Step 1 contains up to fifteen editable data fields: Household Member's SSN, First Name, MI, Last Name, Dependent Type, Birthday, Birthplace, Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Eligibility, Alien, Registration Number, Handicapped, and Disabled. All fields are required, except Birthplace. (You may also leave Alien, Handicapped, and/or Disabled blank if they do not apply to this household member.)

The non-editable **Head of Household** field also appears at the top of the screen. Use this to verify that you are adding a member record to the correct household.

# Dependent Type

Choose the option that best describes this person's dependency status.

#### Race

Indicate this person's racial make-up by checking all boxes that apply.

You must check at least one box. If you check more than one box, the ORC program will identify this person as "multi-racial."

# **Ethnicity**

Indicate whether this person is Hispanic/Latino.

# Eligibility

Choose the option that best identifies this person's eligibility for benefits, based on the person's citizenship status.

# Alien and Registration Number

Check the Alien field if this person is a resident alien.

If you do so, the Registration Number field becomes available. If this person has an alien registration number, enter it here. You may leave this field blank if this person has no alien registration number.

# Handicapped and Disabled

Check the appropriate field(s) if this person is handicapped and/or disabled.

#### Hint:

According to HUD, a person is born with a handicap, but acquires a disability after birth.

# To Complete Step 1:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the information.
   (All fields that apply to this person are required, except Birthplace.)
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Start button to go to the next step of the Add Household Member wizard.

# Step 2: Confirm Household Member Information

Step 2 allows you to confirm all of the information before you finish creating this Household Member record. The fields on this screen are not editable.

## To Complete Step 2:

- ✓ If anything is incorrect, press PageUp or click the Back button to go to the previous step and correct it.
- ✓ If everything is correct, press PageDown or click the Finish button to finish adding this household member.

# CHAPTER 3

# Maintain Income

You must maintain a record of all sources of income for each tenant household. You will also designate what amount, if any, of each income source to exclude from income and rent calculations.

For additional information on maintaining income records, please see these and other resources available from the RIMRx document page of Tenmast's RIMCheck.com Web site (www.rimcheck.com/rimrx).

1. Sample Income Script.

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/incomescript.pdf

2. Sample Zero Income Questionnaire/Checklist.

http://www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/ZeroIncomeChecklistandWorksheet.pdf

3. HUD Guidelines for Projecting Annual Income When Upfront Income Verification (UIV) Data is Available, January 2004:

http://www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/HUDGUIDELINESForProjectingIncome.pdf

4. Income and Exclusions Chart.

http://www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/IncomeDeductionsAndExemptionsTable.pdf

For each household, you will use the Income tab of the Tenant Detail screen to maintain one income record for each of the household's sources of income.

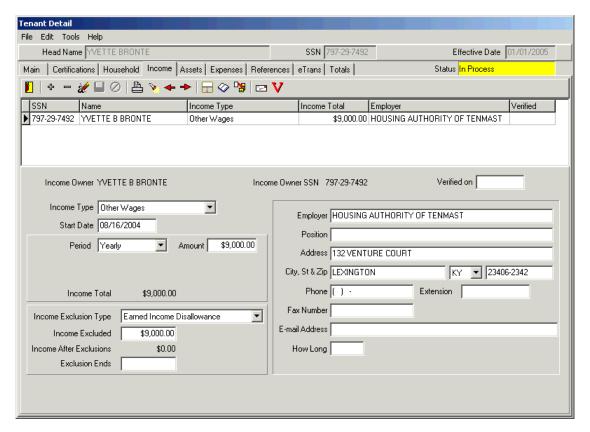
## To Open the Income Tab:

- ✓ Press T or click the Tenant button on the Main Menu.
- ✓ The Tenant Browse Form opens.
- ✓ Select the tenant for whose household you wish to maintain income.
- ✓ Press Alt+E or click the Edit/Review button.

#### Hint:

You can also double-click a tenant's record to select it and open the Tenant Detail screen.

- ✓ The Tenant Detail screen opens.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+Tab or click the Income tab (at the upper left) on the Tenant Detail screen.



# **Add Income**

You will use the Add Income wizard to add household income records.

## To Start the Add Income Wizard:

✓ Press Ctrl+A or click the Add icon on the Income tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

# **Use the Add Income Wizard**

The Add Income wizard will guide you through five steps to add an income record:

- 1. Define the Income
- 2. Select Applicable Income Exclusion
- 3. Select Agency Information
- Verification Form Letter
- Confirm Income Information

We will walk through these steps separately.

#### To Move to the Next Step:

✓ Press PageDown or click the Start, Next, or Finish button.

# To Move to the Previous Step:

✓ Press PageUp or click the Back button.

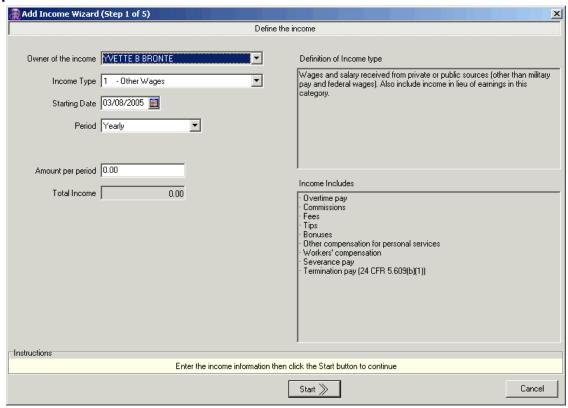
# To Cancel the Wizard at Any Time:

✓ Press Esc or click the Cancel button.

#### Hint:

Until you finish Step 5, you can go back and change any information you have entered.

# Step 1: Define the Income



This step allows you to enter information about the owner, type, and amount of the income.

Step 1 contains at least five editable data fields: **Owner of the Income, Income Type**, **Starting Date**, **Period**, and **Amount per Period**. Depending on your choice for Period, the **Weeks per Year** and/or **Hours per Week** fields may also appear. All fields are required.

This step also includes the non-editable **Total Income**, **Definition of Income Type**, and **Income Includes** fields.

#### Owner of the Income

Select the household member who receives this income.

# Income Type, Definition of Income Type, and Income Includes

Choose the option in the Income Type field that best identifies the type of income.

If you are unsure what any income type means, select that type temporarily and use the Definition of Income Type and Income Includes fields for reference. These fields show you, respectively, HUD's definition of the income type and specific examples of that type of income.

# **Starting Date**

Select the date on which this person began receiving this income.

#### Period

Choose the basis for calculating this income.

# Weeks per Year and Hours per Week

If you have chosen a weekly period, the Weeks per Year field becomes available. Enter the number of weeks per year that this person receives this income.

If you have chosen an hourly period, both the Weeks per Year and the Hours per Week fields becomes available. Enter the number of weeks per year and the number of hours per week this person works.

# **Amount per Period**

Enter the amount of income this person receives during each period.

#### **Total Income**

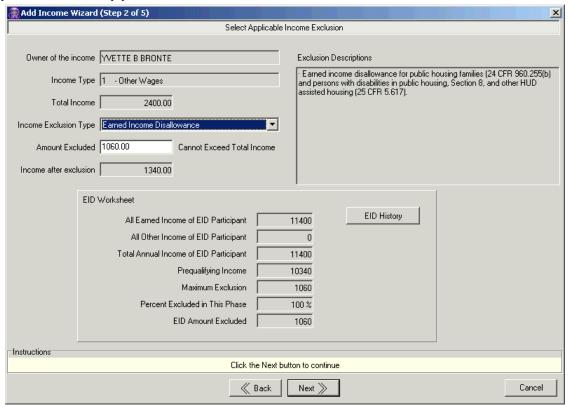
This non-editable field calculates the annual amount of the income, based on your choices for the other fields. Depending on the income type, this annual amount will be included in the appropriate calculations on the Totals tab of the Tenant detail screen.

## To Complete Step 1:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the information.

  (All editable fields are required.)
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Start button to go to the next step of the Add Income wizard.





This step allows you to identify what portion of this income, if any, is excluded from rent calculations for this household.

Step 2 contains two editable data fields: **Income Exclusion Type** and **Amount Excluded**. Both are required if an exclusion exists for this income or tenant.

This step also contains the **EID History** function and non-editable **EID Worksheet**, **Exclusion Description**, and **Income after Exclusion** fields.

Your choices from Step 1 for income owner, type, and total also appear at the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

# Income Exclusion Type and Exclusion Description

Choose the option in the Income Exclusion Type field that best identifies the exclusion. The default is Earned Income Disallowance. Select "None" if no exclusion exists for this income or tenant.

If you are unsure what any exclusion type means, select that type temporarily and use the Exclusion Description field for reference. This field shows you HUD's description of the exclusion type.

# **Amount Excluded**

The default for this field is the amount calculated for the EID Amount Excluded field. (See EID Worksheet, below.) Use this amount for the Earned Income Disallowance exclusion type. For all other exclusion types, enter the amount of the income to exclude from rent calculations. This amount cannot exceed the total income amount.

## Income after Exclusion

The program calculates this amount by subtracting the Amount Excluded field from the Total Income field. This amount will be included in income and rent calculations for this household.

# **EID Worksheet and EID History**

If this person is an EID participant, the EID Worksheet fields will calculate the EID Amount Excluded. If this person is not an EID participant, the EID Amount Excluded will be zero.

Click the EID History button to view a history of all EID employment for this person. (For more information, see *Earned Income Disallowance* and *Monitor EID Employment*.)

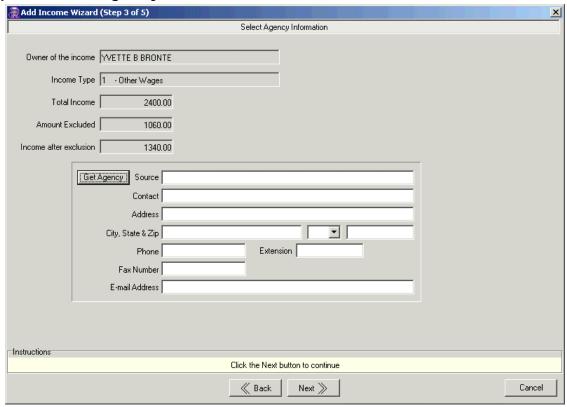
### To View EID Employment History:

- ✓ Click the EID History button.
- √ (See Monitor EID Employment.)

#### To Complete Step 2:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the exclusion information.
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Add Income wizard.

**Step 3: Select Agency Information** 



This step allows you to identify the source of this income.

Step 3 contains the **Source** field and nine contact information fields. None is required.

This step also contains the **Get Agency** function.

Some of your choices from previous steps also appear at the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

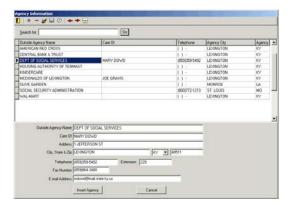
# Source and Get Agency

This identifies the agency, organization, or company that is paying this income to the income owner.

If you have entered this organization in your list of outside agencies, you can use the Get Agency function to select it. (See *Maintain Outside Agencies*.) You can also use this function to add an organization to the outside agencies list "on the fly." Otherwise, enter the source and its contact information into these fields manually.

## To Use the Get Agency Function:

- ✓ Click the Get Agency button.
- ✓ The Agency Information screen opens.



- ✓ Click in the agency table to select the agency.
- ✓ (For information on adding an agency, see Maintain Outside Agencies.)
- ✓ Click the Insert Agency button to make your choice and close the Agency Information screen.
- ✓ To cancel the Agency Information screen, click the Cancel button.
- ✓ If necessary, tab or click through the fields, editing the contact information.

#### Hint:

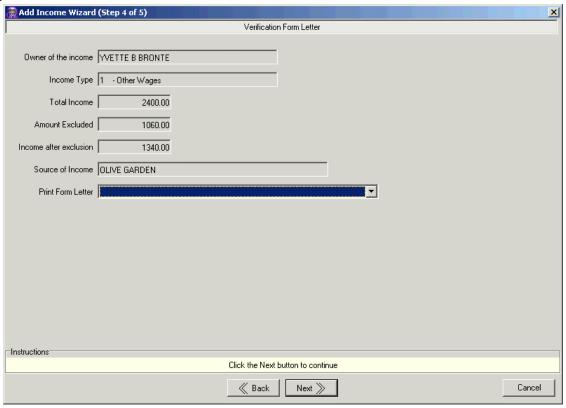
You may need to edit, for example, the Contact, Extension, and/or E-mail Address fields.

✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Add Income wizard.

# To Complete Step 3 Manually:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the agency information (optional).
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Add Income wizard.

Step 4: Verification Form Letter



This step allows you to print a form letter addressed to the source of income (the agency you entered on Step 3), asking them to verify the income.

Step 4 contains one editable data field, **Print Form Letter**. It is optional.

Some of your choices from previous steps also appear at the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

#### Print Form Letter

Select the form letter, if any, you wish to print.

If you select a form letter, a print dialog box will open for it when you click the Finish button on Step 5 of this wizard. Click the OK button on that dialog box to print the letter.

# To Complete Step 4:

- ✓ Select a form letter to print (optional).
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Add Income wizard.

# Step 5: Confirm Income Information

Step 5 allows you to confirm all of the information before you finish creating this income record. The fields on this screen are not editable.

# To Complete Step 5:

- ✓ If anything is incorrect, press PageUp or click the Back button to go to the previous step(s) and correct it.
- ✓ If everything is correct, press PageDown or click the Finish button to finish creating the income record.

# CHAPTER

# 4

# Maintain Assets

You must maintain a record of all assets owned by each tenant household, primarily to determine how much income they derive from these assets.

You will use the Assets tab of the Tenant Detail screen to maintain household assets for each tenant.

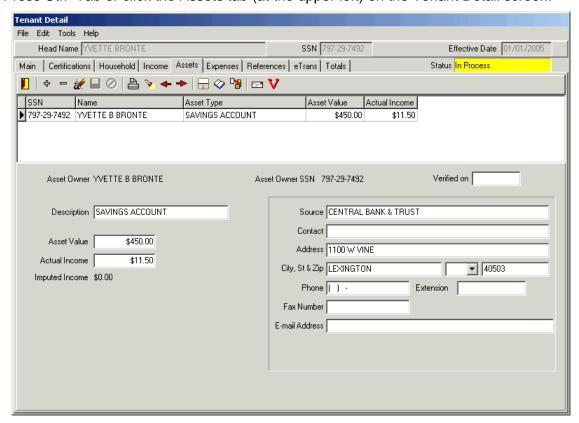
# To Open the Assets Tab:

- ✓ Press T or click the Tenant button on the Main Menu.
- ✓ The Tenant Browse Form opens.
- ✓ Select the tenant for whose household you wish to maintain assets.
- ✓ Press Alt+E or click the Edit/Review button.

#### Hint:

You can also double-click a tenant's record to select it and open the Tenant Detail screen.

- ✓ The Tenant Detail screen opens.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+Tab or click the Assets tab (at the upper left) on the Tenant Detail screen.



# **Add Assets**

You will use the Add Asset wizard to add asset records.

#### To Start the Add Asset Wizard:

✓ Press Ctrl+A or click the Add icon on the Assets tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

# **Use the Add Asset Wizard**

The Add Asset wizard will guide you through three steps to add an asset record:

- 1. Define the Asset
- 2. Enter the Asset Source
- 3. Verification Form Letter
- 4. Confirm Asset Information

We will walk through these steps separately.

# To Move to the Next Step:

✓ Press PageDown or click the Start, Next, or Finish button.

# To Move to the Previous Step:

✓ Press PageUp or click the Back button.

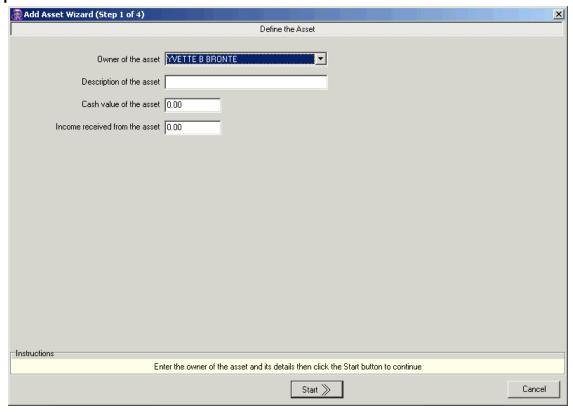
# To Cancel the Wizard at Any Time:

✓ Press Esc or click the Cancel button.

#### Hint:

Until you finish Step 3, you can go back and change any information you have entered.

Step 1: Define the Asset



This step allows you to enter information about the owner, description, and value of the asset.

Step 1 contains four editable data fields: Owner of the Asset, Description of the Asset, Cash Value of the Asset, and Income Received from the Asset. All fields are required. (Income Received from the Asset may be zero.)

## Owner of the Asset

Select the household member who owns this asset.

# **Description of the Asset**

Enter a short text description to identify the asset.

# Cash Value of the Asset

This is the net cash gain the owner would receive if converting the asset to cash.

The cash value equals the "fair market value" minus any money the owner owes on the asset (e.g., a mortgage or car loan) and minus any expenses involved in converting the asset to cash (e.g., early withdrawal penalties, legal fees, or brokerage fees).

# Income Received from the Asset

Enter the *annual* income, if any, the owner receives from this asset. An example of this might be annual interest earned on a savings account.

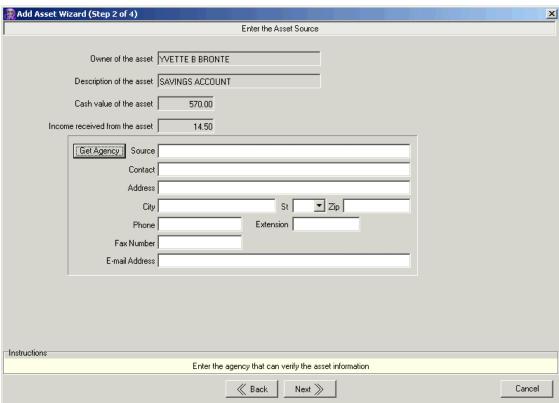
#### Note:

There is sometimes more than one acceptable method for determining the income received from assets. You could calculate income received from a savings account, for example, based on its average balance for the past three months or based on its current balance. Your agency must have a policy, preferably in writing, for making these determinations and apply that policy consistently to all tenants. Please check your agency's policy.

## To Complete Step 1:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the information.
  (All fields are required.)
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Start button to go to the next step of the Add Asset wizard.





This step allows you to identify the agency, if any, that can verify the value of this asset and the income the owner receives from it.

Step 2 contains the **Source** field and nine contact information fields. None is required.

This step also contains the **Get Agency** function.

Some of your choices from previous steps also appear at the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

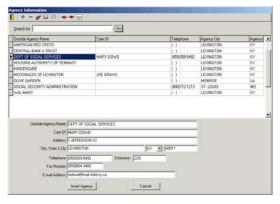
## Source

If an agency, organization, or company can verify the value of this asset and/or the income the owner receives from it, enter that agency here. You might enter, for example, a bank that can verify information for a bank account.

If you have entered this organization in your list of outside agencies, you can use the Get Agency function to select it. (See *Maintain Outside Agencies*.) You can also use this function to add an organization to the outside agencies list "on the fly." Otherwise, enter the verifying source and its contact information into these fields manually.

# To Use the Get Agency Function:

- ✓ Click the Get Agency button.
- ✓ The Agency Information screen opens.



- ✓ Click in the agency table to select the agency.
- ✓ (For information on adding an agency, see *Maintain Outside Agencies*.)
- ✓ Click the Insert Agency button to make your choice and close the Agency Information screen.
- ✓ To cancel the Agency Information screen, click the Cancel button.
- ✓ If necessary, tab or click through the fields, editing the contact information.

#### Hint:

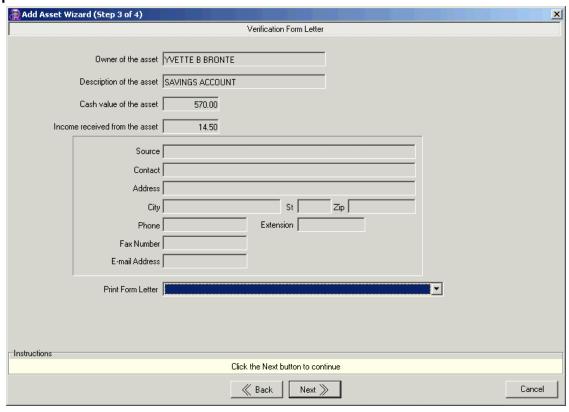
You may need to edit, for example, the Contact, Extension, and/or E-mail Address fields.

✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Add Asset wizard.

# To Complete Step 2 Manually:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the verifying agency information.
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Add Asset wizard.

**Step 3: Verification Form Letter** 



This step allows you to print a form letter addressed to the source of asset (the agency you entered on Step 2), asking them to verify the income.

Step 3 contains one editable data field, **Print Form Letter**. It is optional.

Your choices from previous steps also appear at the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

#### Print Form Letter

Select the form letter, if any, you wish to print.

If you select a form letter, a print dialog box will open for it when you click the Finish button on Step 4 of this wizard. Click the OK button on that dialog box to print the letter.

# To Complete Step 3:

- ✓ Select a form letter to print (optional).
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Add Asset wizard.

# **Step 4: Confirm Asset Information**

Step 4 allows you to confirm the information before you finish creating this asset record. The fields on this screen are not editable.

# To Complete Step 4:

- ✓ If anything is incorrect, press PageUp or click the Back button to go to the previous step(s) and correct it.
- ✓ If everything is correct, press PageDown or click the Finish button to finish creating the income record.

# CHAPTER **5**

# Maintain Expenses

HUD considers certain qualified expenses of a tenant household as "deductions" from income. Qualified expenses could include such things as childcare costs and certain costs related to a disability of a family member.

Unreimbursed medical expenses also qualify as deductible expenses. IRS Publication 502, *Allowable Medical Expenses*, provides additional information on allowable medical expenses. It is available from the RIMRx document page of Tenmast's RIMCheck.com Web site (www.rimcheck.com/rimrx):

http://www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/IRSPublication502-AllowableMedicalExpenses.pdf

You will use the Expenses tab of the Tenant Detail screen to maintain qualified household expenses for each tenant.

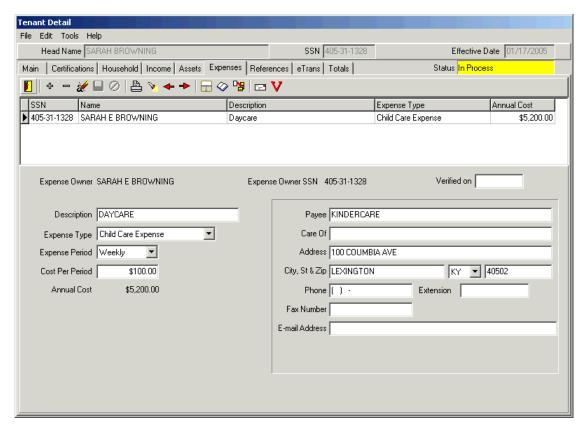
# To Open the Expenses Tab:

- ✓ Press T or click the Tenant button on the Main Menu.
- ✓ The Tenant Browse Form opens.
- ✓ Select the tenant for whose household you wish to maintain expenses.
- ✓ Press Alt+E or click the Edit/Review button.

#### Hint:

You can also double-click a tenant's record to select it and open the Tenant Detail screen.

- ✓ The Tenant Detail screen opens.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+Tab or click the Expenses tab (at the upper left) on the Tenant Detail screen.



# **Add Expenses**

You will use the Add Expense wizard to create expense records.

## To Start the Add Expense Wizard:

✓ Press Ctrl+A or click the Add icon on the Expenses tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

# **Use the Add Expense Wizard**

The Add Expense wizard will guide you through three steps to add an expense record:

- 1. Define the Expense
- 2. Select Agency Information
- 3. Confirm Expense Information

We will walk through these steps separately.

#### To Move to the Next Step:

✓ Press PageDown or click the Start, Next, or Finish button.

# To Move to the Previous Step:

✓ Press PageUp or click the Back button.

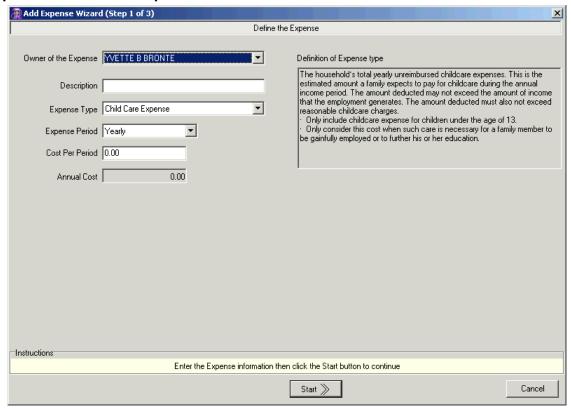
### To Cancel the Wizard at Any Time:

✓ Press Esc or click the Cancel button.

#### Hint:

Until you finish Step 3, you can go back and change any information you have entered.

# Step 1: Define the Expense



This step allows you to enter information about the owner, type, and amount of the expense.

Step 1 contains five editable data fields: **Owner of the Expense**, **Description**, **Expense Type**, **Expense Period**, and **Cost per Period**. All fields are required.

This step also includes the non-editable **Annual Cost** and **Definition of Expense Type** fields.

# Owner of the Expense

Select the household member who pays this expense.

# **Expense Type and Definition of Expense Type**

Choose the option in the Expense Type field that best identifies the type of expense.

If you are unsure what any expense type means, select that type temporarily and use the Definition of Expense Type field for reference. This field shows you HUD's definition of the expense type.

# **Expense Period**

Choose the basis for calculating this expense.

# Cost per Period

Enter the amount this person pays during each period.

# **Annual Cost**

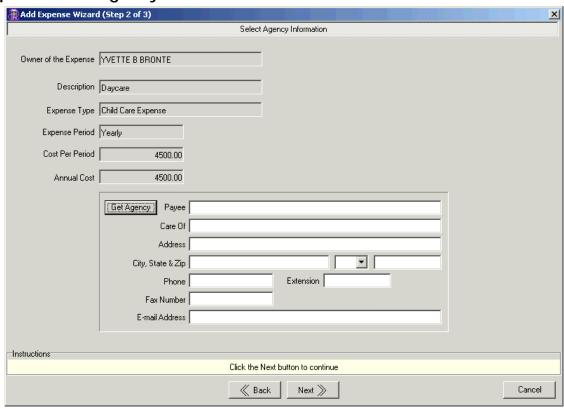
This non-editable field calculates the annual amount of the expense, based on your choices for the other fields. Depending on the expense type, this annual amount will be included in the appropriate calculations on the Totals tab of the Tenant detail screen.

## To Complete Step 1:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the information.

  (All fields are required.)
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Start button to go to the next step of the Add Expense wizard.

**Step 2: Select Agency Information** 



This step allows you to identify payee of this expense.

Step 2 contains the Payee field and nine contact information fields. None is required.

This step also contains the **Get Agency** function.

Your choices from previous steps also appear at the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

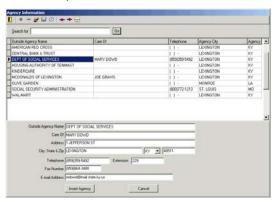
# **Payee**

This identifies the agency, organization, or company to whom this expense is paid.

If you have entered this organization in your list of outside agencies, you can use the Get Agency function to select it. (See *Maintain Outside Agencies*.) You can also use this function to add an organization to the outside agencies list "on the fly." Otherwise, enter the payee and its contact information into these fields manually.

# To Use the Get Agency Function:

- ✓ Click the Get Agency button.
- ✓ The Agency Information screen opens.



- Click in the agency table to select the agency.
- ✓ (For information on adding an agency, see *Maintain Outside Agencies*.)
- ✓ Click the Insert Agency button to make your choice and close the Agency Information screen.
- ✓ To cancel the Agency Information screen, click the Cancel button.
- ✓ If necessary, tab or click through the fields, editing the contact information.

## Hint:

You may need to edit, for example, the Care Of, Extension, and/or E-mail Address fields.

✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Add Expense wizard.

## To Complete Step 3 Manually:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the payee information.
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Add Expense wizard.

# **Step 3: Confirm Expense Information**

Step 3 allows you to confirm all of the information before you finish creating this expense record. The fields on this screen are not editable.

#### To Complete Step 3:

- ✓ If anything is incorrect, press PageUp or click the Back button to go to the previous step(s) and correct it.
- ✓ If everything is correct, press PageDown or click the Finish button to finish creating the expense record.

# CHAPTER 6

# Certifications

HUD requires your agency to conduct periodic examinations or "certifications" of each family you house. The certification of a family serves three primary purposes. It allows you to establish the family's eligibility for benefits, determine the size of unit (number of bedrooms) they require, and determine the amount of assistance they will receive from your agency.

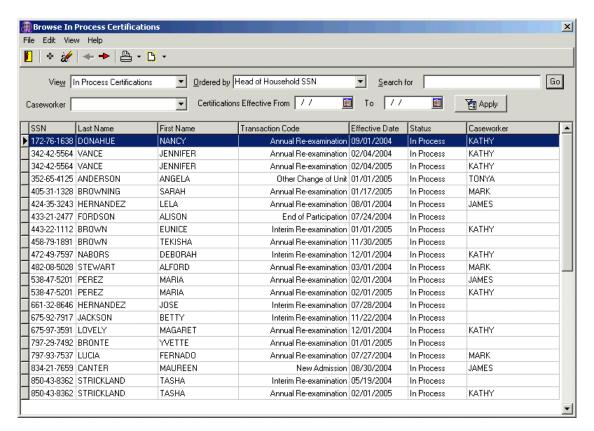
#### Hint:

Within the context used here, "certification" and "examination" mean the same thing. The ORC program and this manual use these terms interchangeably.

The ORC program helps you manage the certification process. It streamlines the preparation of certification documents and allows you to track and report on all verification information needed for RIM (Rental Integrity Monitoring) audits. It also allows your agency to define a different set of custom steps to complete each kind of certification you perform. This lets you customize the program to reflect your certification procedures and helps ensure consistency in the way your caseworkers process certifications. (See *Maintain Certification Steps*.)

For more information on HUD's certification rules, please see the *HUD Certification Rules* appendix to this manual.

The remainder of this chapter discusses a certification process typical for most agencies and walks you step-by-step through using the ORC program to create, process, and finalize certifications.



# **Certification Process**

The ORC program helps you manage all aspects of the certification process, including creating and scheduling certifications, preparing documents, collecting and verifying information, and notifying the tenant and HUD of the results.

The program includes many wizards that guide you step-by-step through complex processes and help ensure that you enter HUD-mandated information. The verification steps built into the program exactly match the requirements of a RIM (Rental Integrity Monitoring) audit.

Here is a typical certification process for most agencies.

#### Note:

Your process may be different, depending on you agency's procedures.

If your agency uses caseworkers, each tenant's certification will usually be conducted by that tenant's caseworker. Agencies without caseworkers may have certain employees who perform all certifications or may assign certifications in some other way.

You will create interim recertifications and certifications for new admissions individually, as needed. You can also create annual recertifications individually, but you will most often create them in "batches" on a regular basis (usually monthly). (See *Create a Single Certification* and *Batch Add Certifications*.)

Your time frame for beginning annual recertifications and certifications for new admissions (how far in advance of the recertification dates or unit offers you begin the process) will depend on your agency's procedures. HUD requires that you allow enough time to collect and verify all information – including third-party verifications – and still provide advanced notice to any family

whose rent will change. Most agencies begin certifications at least thirty to ninety days before the recertification dates or unit offers.

Your agency can define your own set of custom steps to complete each kind of certification you perform. After you create a certification, your agency-defined steps for that certification will appear on the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen. You will walk through each of these steps to complete the certification. (See *Maintain Certification Steps* and *Complete Certification Steps*.)

Most certifications require a large number of printed forms. As part of the certification-creation process, the ORC program allows you to print an agency-defined packet of documents for each household. These documents may include an application for initial or continued occupancy and any number of verification forms.

One of the more important parts of a certification is the verification of a household's total income. HUD requires you to use up-front verification whenever possible. Up-front verification sources are Internet or other electronic sources that allow you to confirm tenant information. You can access these sources and begin verification even before the tenant interview.

#### Hint:

As of the publication of this manual, HUD is still developing its own Upfront Income Verification (UIV) System. For more information, please visit the following Web address:

www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/rhiip/uivsystem.cfm

For more information on up-front verification, including a partial list of other verification sources, please see Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook, June 2003 (see Section 7.5, "Up-Front Income Verification"):

www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/rhiip/phguidebook.cfm

You will conduct each tenant interview at its scheduled time. During the interview, you will collect from the tenant all information needed for the certification and have the tenant complete and/or sign any forms required by your agency.

You must verify much of the information you gather during a certification. These "verifiable items" include such things as income, qualified deductions from income, assets, age, Social Security number, and citizenship or eligible immigrant status. After the interview, you will verify any of this information you have not already verified.

HUD stipulates a hierarchy of methods of verification it prefers. For each verifiable piece of information, you must attempt the "most-preferred" verification method first. If it is not available, you must then attempt the next-most-preferred method, etc., until you successfully verify that item. For each unsuccessful verification attempt, you must document when you attempted it and why that verification method was unavailable.

For verification of income and Social Security numbers, you must use up-front verification, mentioned above, whenever possible. If that is unavailable, written verification from a third party and then oral verification from a third party are the second and third choices, respectively. If neither of those is available, you may examine documents provided by the tenant. Finally, if you have exhausted all other options, your agency's procedures may allow you to accept a notarized statement from the tenant as verification. This hierarchy is identical when you are verifying information other than income and Social Security numbers, except that up-front income verification is not an option.

In some cases, you may need to conduct follow-up interviews with the tenant to gather additional information and/or to address discrepancies between tenant-reported information and information verified by third parties.

When you have completed all the steps of a certification, you will run the Finalize Certification wizard in the ORC program. This wizard allows you to print another agency-defined packet of documents for the household. This set of documents may include such things as a rent change notice for the tenant, a lease amendment, or various other documents for the tenant's folder. (See *Finalize Certifications*.)

# **Create Certifications**

The ORC program allows you to create a "batch" of certifications, based on the next reexamination date of each tenant household, or to create a single certification for a new or existing tenant. We will walk through both of these options.

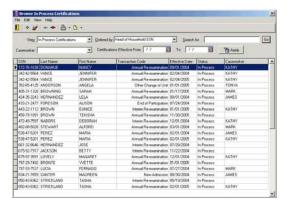
# **Batch Add Certifications**

On a regular basis, usually monthly, you will create "batches" of recertifications based on the next reexamination date of each tenant household. If you agency uses caseworkers, you can also choose to create these recertifications only for tenants with a certain caseworker or for all tenants.

You will use the Add Certifications wizard to batch add annual certifications. You can access this wizard from the Browse Certifications screen.

# To Open the Browse Certifications Screen:

✓ Press C or click the Certification button on the Main Menu.



#### To Start the Add Certifications Wizard:

- ✓ Press Ctrl+A or click the Add icon on the Browse Certifications screen.
- ✓ The Add Certifications dialog box opens.



- ✓ Verify that Batch Add Certifications is selected.
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button.

# Use the Add Certifications Wizard

The Add Certifications wizard will guide you through two steps to batch add annual certifications:

- 1. Select Certifications to Generate
- 2. Confirmation

We will walk through these steps separately.

#### To Move to the Next Step:

✓ Press PageDown or click the Start or Finish button.

#### To Move to the Previous Step:

✓ Press PageUp or click the Back button.

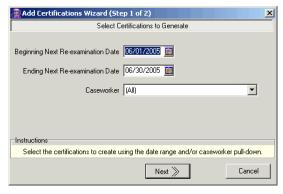
#### To Cancel the Wizard at Any Time:

✓ Press Esc or click the Cancel button.

#### Hint:

Until you finish Step 2, you can go back and change any information you have entered.

# Step 1: Select Certifications to Generate



This step allows you to enter all the information needed to create a set of certifications.

Step 1 contains three data fields: **Beginning Next Reexamination Date**, **Ending Next Reexamination Date**, and **Caseworker**. All fields are required. (Caseworker may be "All.")

## Beginning and Ending Next Reexamination Date

Select the date range of the certifications you wish to create, based on the next reexamination date of each tenant household. The ORC program will create one certification for each household whose next reexamination date falls within this range (and whose certification has not already been created).

Most agencies begin creating and processing certifications in the month before the actual reexamination dates. For this reason, the date range on this step defaults to the month after next. (In other words, if you run the wizard in January, the default date range is the month of March; if you run the wizard in February, the default date range is the month of April; etc.) You can change this default date range, if necessary.

#### Hint:

The next reexamination date for any tenant appears as the Next Exam Date field on the Main tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

#### Caseworker

If you wish to create certifications only for households having a certain caseworker, select that caseworker. Otherwise, verify that "All" is selected for this field.

#### Hint:

The Caseworker field also appears on the Main tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

#### To Complete Step 1:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the information.
  (All fields are required.)
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Start button to go to the next step of the Add Certifications wizard.

# Step 2: Confirmation

Step 2 allows you to confirm all of the information before you finish creating this set of Certifications. The fields on this screen are not editable.

#### To Complete Step 2:

- ✓ If anything is incorrect, press PageUp or click the Back button to go to the previous step and correct it.
- ✓ If everything is correct, press PageDown or click the Finish button to finish adding this set of Certifications.

When you finish, you return to the Browse Certifications screen, where the new certifications appear in the table. For information on completing these certifications, please see *Complete Certification* Steps.)

# Create a Single Certification

You will use the Begin Certification wizard any time you wish to create a single certification, such as for a new admission or an interim reexamination. You may occasionally wish to use this method to create a single annual recertification.

This wizard will behave slightly differently depending on the tenant for whom you are creating a certification. Namely, it will skip Step 1 if the certification is for any existing tenant. (Step 1 allows you to enter such things as the tenant's name and Social Security number, so you do not need it for existing tenants.)

You can start this wizard from more than one place in the ORC program, depending on your goal and what is most convenient at the time. You have two options for starting the wizard for an existing-tenant certification and two slightly different options for starting the wizard for a new-admission certification.

We will first walk through your options for starting the wizard and then walk through the steps of the wizard itself.

# Create a Single Certification for an Existing Tenant

You may sometimes need to create a single certification for an existing tenant, most commonly for an interim reexamination.

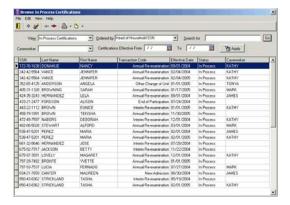
You can create such a certification directly from the Browse Certifications screen, or you can create it by first opening the tenant's record on the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen. Here are the steps for each of these options.

#### To Create from the Browse Certifications Screen

Follow these steps to create a single certification for an existing tenant from the Browse Certifications screen.

#### **To Open the Browse Certifications Screen:**

✓ Press C or click the Certification button on the Main Menu.

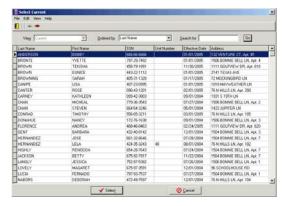


#### To Create a Single Certification for an Existing Tenant:

- ✓ Press Ctrl+A or click the Add icon on the Browse Certifications screen.
- ✓ The Add Certifications dialog box opens.



- ✓ Press DownArrow or click to select Existing Tenant Single Certification.
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button.
- ✓ A select screen opens with a table of current tenants.



- ✓ Select the tenant for whom you wish to create a certification.
- ✓ Press Alt+T or click the Select button to make your choice and start the Begin Certification wizard.

#### Hint:

You can also double-click the tenant's record to select it and start the Begin Certification wizard.

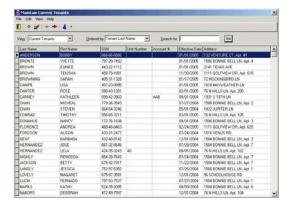
- ✓ The Begin Certification wizard opens on Step 2. (Step 1 does not apply to existing tenants.)
- √ (See Use the Begin Certification Wizard.)

#### To Create from the Certifications Tab of the Tenant Detail Screen:

Follow these steps to create a single certification for an existing tenant from the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

#### To Open the Tenant Browse Form:

✓ Press T or click the Tenant button on the Main Menu.



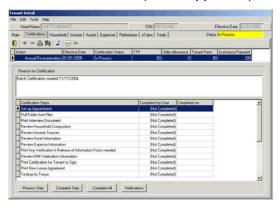
#### To Open the Certifications Tab of the Tenant Detail Screen:

- ✓ Select the tenant for whom you wish to create a certification.
- ✓ Press Alt+E or click the Edit/Review button.

#### Hint:

You can also double-click the tenant's record to select it and open the Tenant Detail screen.

- ✓ The Tenant Detail screen opens.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+Tab or click the Certifications tab (at the upper left) on the Tenant Detail screen.



#### To Create a Single Certification for an Existing Tenant:

- ✓ Press Ctrl+A or click the Add icon on the Certifications tab.
- ✓ The Begin Certification wizard opens on Step 2. (Step 1 does not apply to existing tenants.)
- √ (See Use the Begin Certification Wizard.)

# Create a Single Certification for a New Admission or Portability Move-in

You must conduct a certification, also known as an "Initial Eligibility Determination," for each new family before you can admit them to your agency's subsidized housing program. These include not only new residents of public housing or new housing choice voucher families, but also "portability move-ins" to Section 8.

You can create such a certification directly from the Browse Certifications screen, or you can create it by first opening any tenant record on the Main tab of the Tenant Detail screen. We will walk through both of these options.

#### Note:

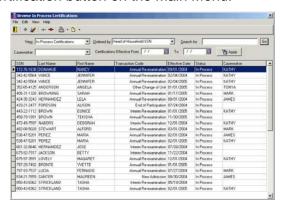
If you are working in a Section 8 data area and if you have enabled Section 8 voucher tracking in the Setup of the Section 8 program, you cannot add a new tenant directly into Occupancy and Rent Calculation. You must add the tenant as an applicant in the Applicant List program, then assign a voucher and perform a move-in from that program. (For more information, please see the user manuals for WinTen<sup>2</sup> Section 8 and Applicant List.)

#### To Create from the Browse Certifications Screen

Follow these steps to create a single certification for a new admission or portability move-in from the Browse Certifications screen.

#### To Open the Browse Certifications Screen:

✓ Press C or click the Certification button on the Main Menu.



#### To Create a Single Certification for a New Admission or Portability Move-in:

- ✓ Press Ctrl+A or click the Add icon on the Browse Certifications screen.
- ✓ The Add Certifications dialog box opens.



- ✓ Press DownArrow or click to select either New Admission or Portability Move-in.
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button.
- ✓ The Begin Certification wizard opens on Step 1.
- √ (See Use the Begin Certification Wizard.)

#### To Create from the Main Tab of the Tenant Detail Screen:

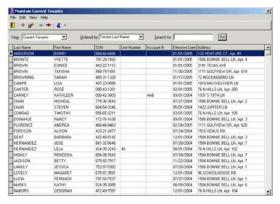
Follow these steps to create a single certification for a new admission or portability move-in from the Main tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

#### Hint:

For purposes of the wizard, it does not matter which tenant record you open on the Tenant Detail screen.

#### To Open the Tenant Browse Form:

✓ Press T or click the Tenant button on the Main Menu.



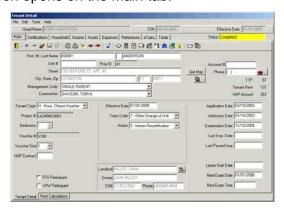
#### To Open the Main Tab of the Tenant Detail Screen:

- ✓ Select any tenant in the table.
- ✓ Press Alt+E or click the Edit/Review button.

#### Hint:

You can also double-click any tenant's record to select it and open the Tenant Detail screen.

✓ The Tenant Detail screen opens on the Main tab.



#### To Create a Single Certification for a New Admission or Portability Move-in:

- ✓ Press Ctrl+A or click the Add icon on the Main tab.
- ✓ The Begin Certification wizard opens on Step 1.
- √ (See Use the Begin Certification Wizard.)

# Use the Begin Certification Wizard

The Begin Certification wizard will guide you through seven steps to create a single certification:

- 1. Enter Tenant Information
- 2. Select Transaction Type and Effective Date
- 3. Select the Dates for this Certification
- 4. Select Unit Information
- 5. Enter Certification Information
- 6. Select Documents to Print
- 7. Confirm New Certification

We will walk through these steps separately.

#### To Move to the Next Step:

✓ Press PageDown or click the Start, Next, or Finish button.

#### To Move to the Previous Step:

✓ Press PageUp or click the Back button.

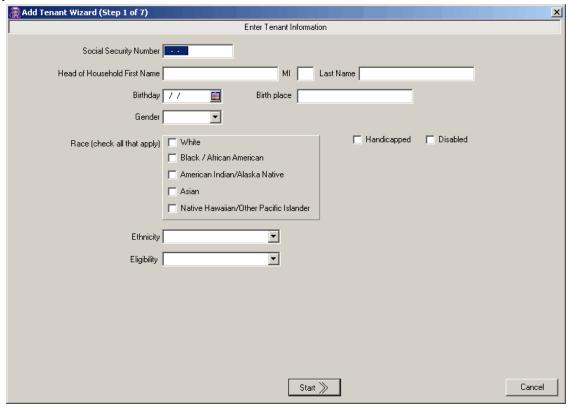
### To Cancel the Wizard at Any Time:

✓ Press Esc or click the Cancel button.

#### Hint:

Until you finish Step 7, you can go back and change any information you have entered.

**Step 1: Enter Tenant Information** 



This step allows you to enter personal information for a new admission or portability move-in.

#### Note:

If you are creating a certification for an existing tenant, the wizard skips this step and opens on Step 2.

Step 1 contains twelve data fields, all of which relate to the new head of household: **Social Security Number**, **First Name**, Middle Initial (**MI**), **Last Name**, **Birthday**, Birthplace, Gender, **Race**, **Handicapped**, **Disabled**, **Ethnicity**, **and Eligibility**. All fields are required, except Middle Initial. (Handicapped and/or Disabled may be blank, if they do not apply to this person.)

#### Race

Select the option(s) that best indicates this person's racial make-up. Check all that apply.

# Handicapped and Disabled

Check the appropriate field(s) if this person is handicapped and/or disabled.

#### Hint:

According to HUD, a person is born with a handicap, but acquires a disability after birth.

## **Ethnicity**

Indicate whether this person is Hispanic/Latino.

# Eligibility

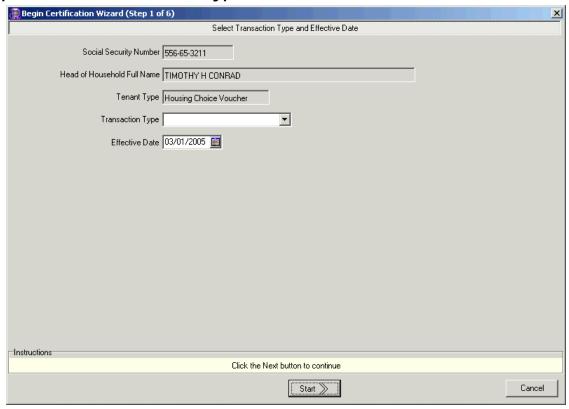
Choose the option that best identifies this person's eligibility for benefits, based on the person's citizenship status.

#### To Complete Step 1:

✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the information.
 (All fields that apply to this person are required, except Middle Initial.)

✓ Press PageDown or click the Start button to go to the next step of the Begin Certification wizard.

Step 2: Select Transaction Type and Effective Date



This step allows you to identify the kind of certification you are creating and its effective date.

#### Note:

If you are creating a certification for an existing tenant, the wizard skips Step 1 and opens on Step 2.

Step 2 contains at least two editable data fields: **Transaction Type** and **Effective Date**. The **Tenant Type** field is also editable for a new admission or portability move-in. All editable fields are required.

The non-editable **Head of Household Full Name** and **Social Security Number** fields also appear at the top of the screen.

# **Tenant Type**

If this certification is for a new admission or portability move-in, select the type of benefit this household is receiving from your agency. This field is not editable for existing tenants.

# **Transaction Type**

Select the type of certification you wish to create.

The "Transaction Type" label corresponds to the Transaction Type field on Form HUD-50058. Within the context used here, it pertains only to type of certification.

#### Note:

Not all Transaction Types are appropriate for all Tenant Types.

#### **Effective Date**

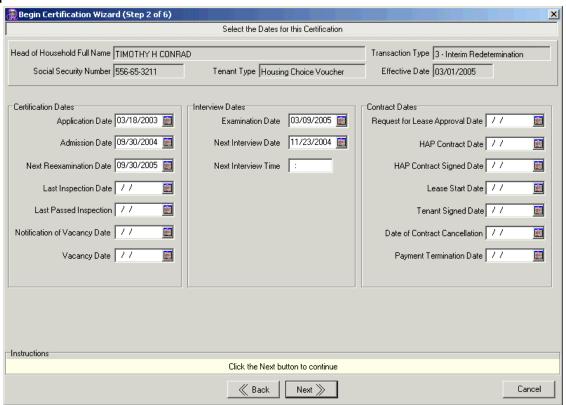
Select the effective date of the new certification.

#### To Complete Step 2:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the information.

  (All editable fields are required.)
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Begin Certification wizard.

Step 3: Select the Dates for this Certification



This step allows you to verify or enter various dates related to this certification.

Step 3 contains seventeen editable data fields divided into three sections: **Certification Dates**, **Interview Dates**, and **Contract Dates**. The **Application Date** and **Admission Date** fields are required.

Information from previous steps also appears at the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

# **Application Date**

This is the date on which the tenant applied to your agency for subsidized housing.

#### **Admission Date**

This is the date on which the tenant was admitted to your agency's subsidized housing program.

#### **Next Reexamination Date**

The tenant's next reexamination is scheduled on this date.

## Last Inspection Date

The tenant's unit underwent its last inspection on this date.

# Last Passed Inspection

This is the date of the last inspection that the tenant's unit passed.

# Notification of Vacancy Date

This is the date on which your agency received notice of the tenant's intent to vacate the unit.

# Vacancy Date

The tenant vacated the unit on this date.

#### **Examination Date**

This is the date of the examination associated with the change or move-in you are performing.

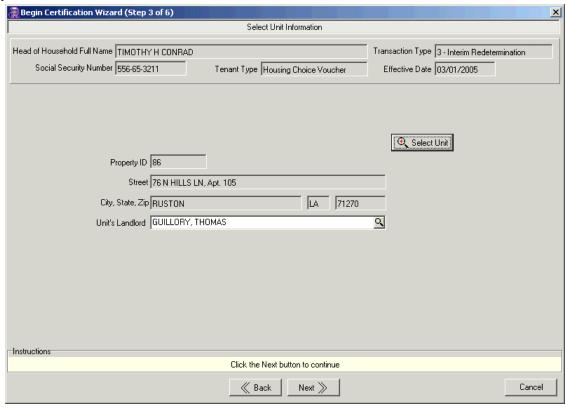
#### **Next Interview Date and Time**

These fields indicate the date and time of the next interview scheduled with this tenant.

#### To Complete Step 3:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the information. (Application Date and Admission Date are required.)
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Begin Certification wizard.

**Step 4: Select Unit Information** 



This step allows you to identify the unit this tenant occupies or will occupy.

Step 4 contains the **Select Unit** function and the **Unit's Landlord** field.

It also contains non-editable **Property ID** and address information fields, which populate automatically based on the tenant's unit.

Information from previous steps also appears at the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

#### Unit's Landlord

If appropriate, select the landlord of the tenant's unit.

#### To Use the Select Unit Function:

- ✓ Click the Select Unit button.
- ✓ The Browse Housing Units screen opens.
- ✓ Click in the table to select the tenant's unit.

#### Hint:

If you wish to view or edit detailed unit information, press Alt+E, click the Edit icon, or double-click the unit record at this time to open it on the Maintain Housing Units screen.

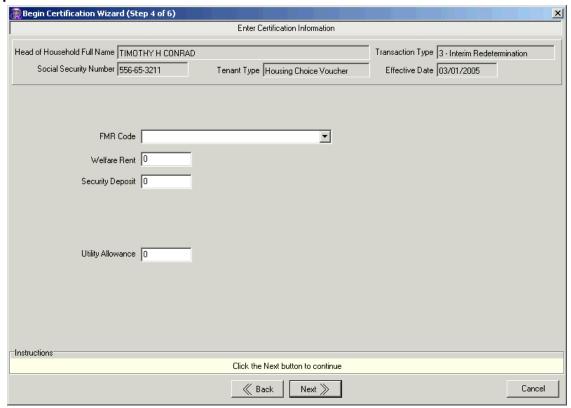
- ✓ Press Alt+T or click the Select button on the Browse Housing Units screen to make your
  choice and close the screen.
- ✓ To cancel the Browse Housing Units screen, click the Cancel button.

✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Begin Certification wizard.

## To Complete Step 4:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the agency information.
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Begin Certification wizard.

Step 5: Enter Certification Information



This step allows you to enter additional information related to this certification. The ORC program will use this information in various income, expense, and rent calculations.

Step 4 contains four editable data fields: **FMR Code**, **Welfare Rent**, **Security Deposit**, and **Utility Allowance**. FMR Code is required.

Information from previous steps also appears at the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

#### FMR Code

Select the FMR (Fair Market Rent) Code that applies to this tenant's unit.

#### Hint:

Your agency maintains your FMR Codes on the FMR/Payment Standard Setup screen. You can access this screen from the Default Settings tab of the ORC Setup screen.

Open the ORC Setup screen by pressing S or clicking the Setup button on the Main Menu. Click the Other Functions (Tools) icon drop-down arrow on the Default Settings tab of the ORC Setup screen, and then click FMR/Payment Standard Setup.

#### Welfare Rent

If this tenant receives a welfare assistance payment and part of that payment is specifically designated for housing (shelter and utilities), enter the "housing" portion of the welfare assistance payment in this field.

# **Security Deposit**

Enter the total amount of this tenant's security deposit.

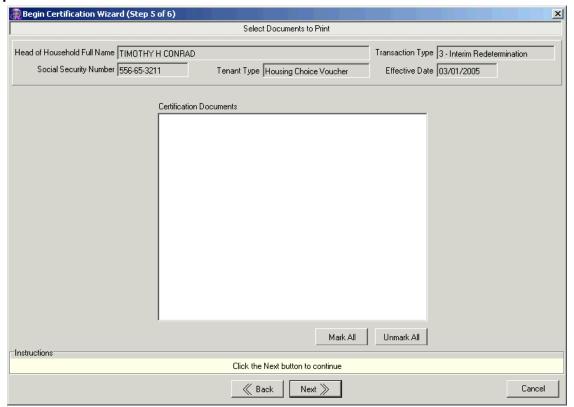
# **Utility Allowance**

Enter the amount of this tenant's monthly utility allowance.

#### To Complete Step 5:

- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering the information.
  (FMR Code is required.)
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Begin Certification wizard.





This step allows you to select certification documents to print at the end of this wizard.

Step 6 contains one field, Certification Documents. It is optional.

This step also contains the Mark All and Unmark All functions.

Information from previous steps also appears at the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

#### Certification Documents

All documents are checked by default. Uncheck any documents you do *not* wish to print.

For each checked document, a print dialog box will open when you click the Finish button on Step 7 of this wizard.

#### Mark All and Unmark All

Click these buttons, respectively, to check or uncheck all documents.

#### To Complete Step 6:

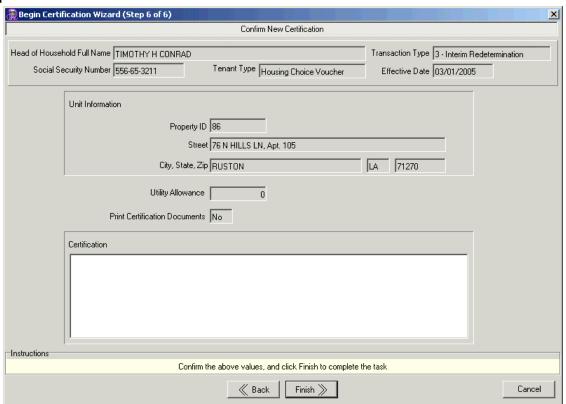
✓ Click the checkboxes in the Certification Documents field as needed to check or uncheck documents.

OR

Click the Mark All or Unmark All button, respectively, to check or uncheck all documents.

✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Begin Certification wizard.

**Step 7: Confirm New Certification** 



This step allows you to confirm the information and to enter comments before you finish creating the certification.

Step 7 contains one editable field, **Reason for Certification**. It is optional.

Information from previous steps also appears at the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

#### Reason for Certification

Enter any comments or additional information regarding the reason for this certification that may be helpful for your agency.

#### **To Complete Step 7:**

- ✓ Enter the Reason for Certification (optional).
- ✓ If anything is incorrect, press PageUp or click the Back button to go to the previous step(s) and correct it.
- ✓ If everything is correct, press PageDown or click the Finish button to finish creating the certification.

When you finish, you return to the screen from which you created the certification. For information on completing the new certification, please see *Complete Certification* Steps.)

# **Complete Certification Steps**

Your agency can define your own set of custom steps to complete each kind of certification you perform. (See *Maintain Certification Steps*.)

After you create a certification, your agency-defined steps for that certification appear on the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen. You will process the certification by walking through each of these steps to complete it.

You can access the Certifications tab from the Browse Certifications screen, or you can access it by opening the tenant's record directly on the Tenant Detail screen (by way of the Tenant Browse form).

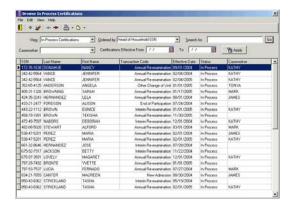
We will first walk through your options for accessing the Certifications tab and then walk through the steps of processing certifications on that tab.

#### To Access from the Browse Certifications Screen

Follow these steps to access the Certifications tab from the Browse Certifications screen.

#### To Open the Browse Certifications Screen:

✓ Press C or click the Certification button on the Main Menu.



## To Open the Certifications Tab of the Tenant Detail Screen:

- ✓ Select the certification you wish to process.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+E or click the Edit icon.

#### Hint:

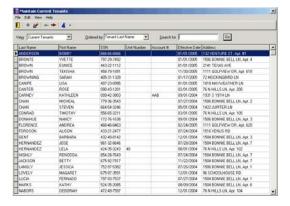
You can also double-click a certification to select it and open the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

## To Access from the Tenant Browse Form:

Follow these steps to access the Certifications tab from the Tenant Browse Form.

#### To Open the Tenant Browse Form:

✓ Press T or click the Tenant button on the Main Menu.



#### To Open the Certifications Tab of the Tenant Detail Screen:

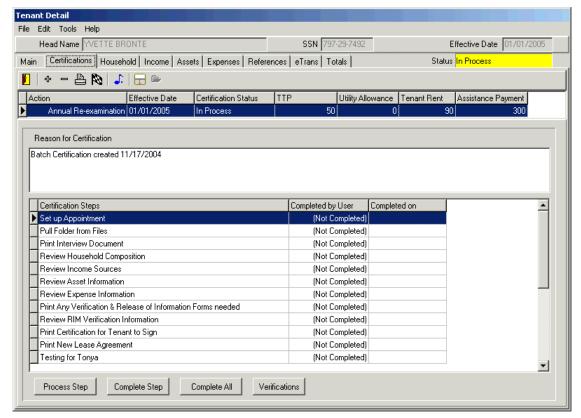
- ✓ Select the tenant for whom you wish to process a certification.
- ✓ Press Alt+E or click the Edit/Review button.

#### Hint:

You can also double-click a tenant's record to select it and open the Tenant Detail screen.

- ✓ The Tenant Detail screen opens.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+Tab or click the Certifications tab (at the upper left) on the Tenant Detail screen.

# Tenant Detail Screen: Certifications Tab



The Certifications tab contains a certification table and a detail information section.

The certification table displays one row of information for each of the current household's certifications.

#### Hint:

By default, only the top row of this table appears. The detail information section hides the rest.

The detail information section, by default, fills most of the screen. This section displays the steps of the certification currently selected in the table above it. You can choose to show or hide the detail information section by pressing Ctrl+O or clicking the Show/Hide icon.

You will process certifications in the detail information section; you cannot do so directly in the certification table.

The certification table contains seven columns of information: **Action**, **Effective Date**, **Certification Status**, **TTP**, **Utility Allowance**, **Tenant Rent**, and **Assistance Payment**. These fields display certification results; they are not editable.

The detail information section contains the **Reason for Certification** field and a table of certification steps defined by your agency for this certification. (See *Maintain Certification Steps*.) The table of certification steps contains three columns of information: **Certification Steps**, **Completed by User**, and **Completed On**.

This section also contains the **Process Step**, **Complete Step**, **Complete All**, and **Verifications** functions.

If you use the Process Step or Complete Step function, you will also have access to the **Update Certification Step** dialog box.

#### Action

This "Action" corresponds to the Transaction Type field on Form HUD-50058. Within the context used here, this identifies the type of certification performed.

#### **Effective Date**

This is the effective date of the certification.

#### **Certification Status**

After you create a certification, its status is "In Process" until it is "Completed."

#### Hint:

The status for the latest certification also appears, by default, at the upper right of the Tenant Detail screen itself.

#### **TTP**

This is the Total Tenant Payment.

In general, the TTP for a household is the greatest of A) 30 percent of *adjusted* monthly income, B) 10 percent of *total* monthly income, or C) a housing stipend, if any, provided by a welfare assistance program.

# **Utility Allowance**

This is the tenant's utility allowance based on your agency's utility allowance schedule for this tenant's unit.

#### **Tenant Rent**

This is the family's monthly rent payment.

In general, if your agency pays for all utilities, tenant rent equals TTP; if the tenant pays for utilities, tenant rent equals TTP minus the utility allowance.

# **Assistance Payment**

This is the monthly payment made by your agency to the owner of a Section 8 unit occupied by the tenant.

In general, the assistance payment is the HAP (Housing Assistance Payment) contract rent (the owner's full rent for the unit) minus tenant rent.

#### Note:

The Assistance Payment field applies only to Section 8.

## **Reason for Certification**

You enter this information on Step 7 of the Begin Certification Wizard. (See *Create a Single Certification* and *Use the Begin Certification Wizard*.)

# **Certification Steps**

This column lists your agency-defined steps for this certification.

# Completed by User and Completed On

For each step that has been completed, these fields show who completed it and when it was completed.

## Process Step

This function helps you complete the task identified by a particular step.

Each agency-defined certification step can open a particular screen or other "location" within the ORC program from which to complete that step. This location may be a tab of the Tenant Detail screen, a Tenant Reports print dialog, the Browse Verifications screen, or the FSS/WtW (Family Self-Sufficiency/Welfare to Work) Contract Information screen. (See *Maintain Certification Steps.*)

When you use the Process Step function, the program will take you to the location your agency has defined for the current step. From there, you may verify, edit, or add information as needed or perform a particular task, such as printing documents.

When you exit from that location, the Update Certification Step dialog box (see below) opens, allowing you to mark the step as completed.

#### Hint:

Instead of having an Exit icon, some (but not all) of these locations have a Return to Certification Steps icon when you open them from the Process Step function.

## Complete Step

This function allows you to mark a step as completed without going to another location within the ORC program. It simply opens the Update Certification Step dialog box (see below), which allows you to mark the step as completed.

#### Hint:

If necessary, you can also use this option to "un-complete" a step – to mark as not completed a step that you had previously marked as completed.

# Complete All

This function allows you to mark all uncompleted steps as complete. It will enter your user name as the "Completed by User" and mark the "Completed On" field with the current date.

#### Hint:

The information for all previously completed steps will remain unchanged. This function affects only uncompleted steps.

#### Verifications

This function allows you to maintain any verifications you receive for tenant information during the certification. Because of the importance and complexity of this function, we will address it separately, in the next section. (See *Verify Information*.)

# **Update Certification Step Dialog Box**

This dialog box is available only from the Process Step and Complete Step functions. It allows you to designate whether a step is completed and, if completed, its completion date.

You can also use this dialog box to "un-complete" a step – to mark as not completed a step that you had previously marked as completed.

#### To Process a Step:

- ✓ Select, in the certifications steps table, the step you wish to process.
- ✓ Press Alt+P or click the Process Step button.
- ✓ The agency-defined location for this step opens.
- ✓ Perform any tasks related to this step.
- ✓ Exit the agency-defined location.

#### Hint:

Depending on the location, you may exit by using an Exit icon; a Return to Certification Steps icon; or a Print, Preview, or Cancel button.

- ✓ The Update Certification Step dialog box opens.
- ✓ Press Spacebar or click to check or uncheck the Mark Certification Step Complete field, as needed.
- ✓ If you have checked the Mark Certification Step Complete field, verify or enter the Completion Date.
- ✓ Press Enter or click the OK button to close the Update Certification Step dialog box and return to the Certifications tab.

#### To Complete or "Un-Complete" a Step:

- ✓ Select, in the certifications steps table, the step you wish to mark complete or not complete.
- ✓ Press Alt+C or click the Complete Step button.
- ✓ The Update Certification Step dialog box opens.
- ✓ As needed, press Spacebar or click to check or uncheck the Mark Certification Step Complete field.
- ✓ If you have checked the Mark Certification Step Complete field, verify or enter the Completion Date.
- ✓ Press Enter or click the OK button to close the Update Certification Step dialog box and return to the Certifications tab.

#### To Complete All Uncompleted Steps:

- ✓ Press Alt+A or click the Complete All button.
- ✓ For each step that was not previously completed, the program enters your user name as the "Completed by User" and marks the "Completed On" field with the current date.

#### To Verify Information:

- ✓ Press Alt+V or click the Verifications button.
- √ (See Verify Information.)

# **Verify Information**

You must verify much of the information you gather during a certification. These "verifiable items" include such things as income, qualified deductions from income, assets, age, Social Security number, and citizenship or eligible immigrant status. After the interview, you will verify any of this information you have not already verified.

One of the more important parts of a certification is the verification of a household's total income. HUD strongly encourages you to use up-front income verification whenever possible. Up-front income verification sources are Internet or other electronic sources that allow you to confirm tenant information. You can access these sources and begin verification even before the tenant interview.

#### Hint:

As of the publication of this manual, HUD is in the process of releasing its Upfront Income Verification (UIV) System. It is currently available in some, but not all, states.

It offers access to two types of information:

- 1) Social Security benefits from the Social Security Administration (the same data that has been available through the TASS system for the last 4 years).
- 2) Wage and income data from the State Wage Information Collection Agencies (SWICAs) in each of the affected states. This includes any reported employment income and unemployment benefits received by the PHA resident.

For more information, please visit the following address:

www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/rhiip/uivsystem.cfm

For more information on up-front income verification in general, including a partial list of other verification sources, please see Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook, June 2003 (see Section 7.5, "Up-Front Income Verification"):

www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/rhiip/phguidebook.cfm

HUD stipulates a hierarchy of methods of verification it prefers. For each verifiable piece of information, you must attempt the "most-preferred" verification method first. If it is not available, you must then attempt the next-most-preferred method, etc., until you successfully verify that item. For each unsuccessful verification attempt, you must document when you attempted it and why that verification method was unavailable.

For income verification, you must use up-front income verification, mentioned above, whenever possible. If that is unavailable, written verification from a third party and then oral verification from a third party are the second and third choices, respectively. If neither of those is available, you may examine documents provided by the tenant. Finally, if you have exhausted all other options, your agency's procedures may allow you to accept a notarized statement from the tenant as verification. This hierarchy is identical when you are verifying information other than income, except that up-front income verification is not an option.

You can use the Browse Verifiable Items screen to view and find a tenant's verifiable items.

You can use the Maintain Verifiable Items screen and the Maintain Verification Detail screen to track your verification of tenant information.

#### Hint:

The Maintain Verifiable Items screen exactly matches HUD's hierarchy of preferred verification methods.

You can access the Browse Verifiable Items screen by using the Verifications function on the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen. (See *Complete Certification Steps.*)

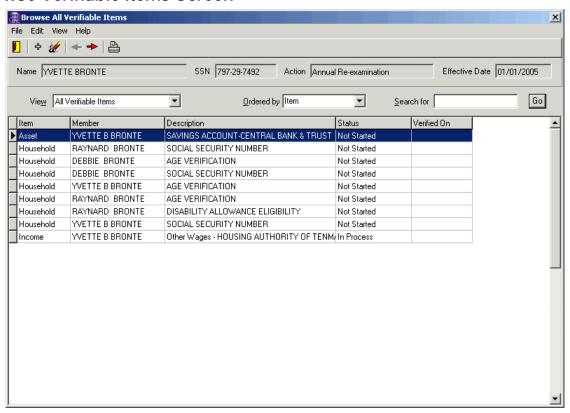
#### Hint:

You can also designate the Browse Verifiable Items screen as the "step location" to open for any of your agency-defined certification steps. (See Maintain Certification Steps.)

#### To Open the Browse Verifiable Items Screen:

✓ Press Alt+V or click the Verifications button on the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

# **Browse Verifiable Items Screen**



The Browse Verifiable Items screen contains a table of verifiable items for the current certification.

This screen also gives you access to the Maintain Verifiable Items screen, which in turn gives you access to the Maintain Verification Detail screen. You can use both of these screens to maintain your verification of tenant information.

# **Maintain Verifiable Items**

The Maintain Verifiable Items screen displays detailed information for one verifiable item.

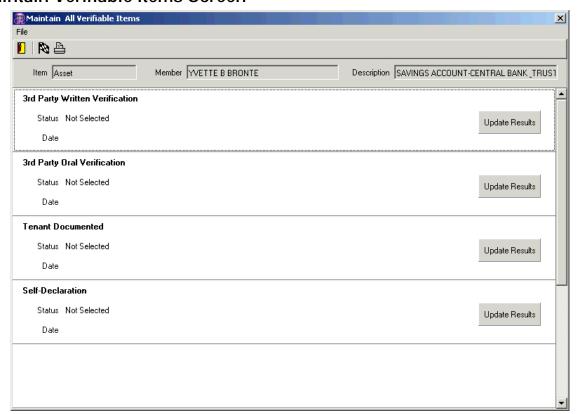
#### To Open the Maintain Verifiable Items Screen:

- ✓ Select, on the Browse Verifiable Items Screen, the item you wish to verify.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+E or click the Edit icon.

#### Hint:

You can also double-click an item to select it and open the Maintain Verifiable Items screen.

# Maintain Verifiable Items Screen



This screen contains at least four sections: 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Written Verification, 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Oral Verification, Tenant Documented, and Self-Declaration. If you are verifying an income item, the Online Verification section also appears above the other four. These sections correspond exactly to HUD's hierarchy of preferred verification methods.

Non-editable fields appear at the top of this screen identifying the type of item you are verifying, the resident's name, and a description of the specific item you are verifying.

Each section of this screen displays either two or five non-editable fields. The **Status** and **Date** fields always appear, although the date may be blank. The **Tenant Reported**, **Actual Verified**, and **Results** fields may also appear. All of these fields are based on the information you enter on the Maintain Verification Detail screens. You cannot edit them here.

Each section contains its own **Update Results** function.

This screen also gives you access to the **Complete Verification Item** dialog box.

#### Status and Date

The Status field can be "Not Selected," "Pending," "Received," or "Not Received." "Not Selected" is the default; it means you have not attempted this verification method. "Pending" means you have requested verification and are waiting for a response. "Received" means you have received verification of the information. "Not Received" means you requested verification, but did not receive a response within your agency's allowable period of time.

The Date field shows when you last updated the status of that section.

# Tenant Reported, Actual Verified, and Results

These fields appear for any section only if the status of that section is "Received."

The Tenant Reported and Actual Verified fields display the information you received from the tenant and the verifying agency, respectively.

The Results field shows whether these two "Matched," there was a "Discrepancy," or an information match was "Not Determined."

# **Update Results**

These buttons give you access to the Maintain Verification Detail screens, which you can use to enter information for any section. Each section has a slightly different detail screen. We will discuss these screens separately, below. (See *Maintain Verification Details*.)

Because the sections are in a HUD-defined hierarchy, you should start with the top section and work your way down until you successfully verify this item. For each unsuccessful attempt, you should document when you attempted it and note why that verification method was unavailable.

When you successfully verify this item, use the Complete Verifiable Item dialog box (see below) to mark this item as completed.

# Complete Verifiable Item Dialog Box



This dialog box allows you to designate whether the current verifiable item is completed and, if completed, its completion date.

You can also use this dialog box to "un-complete" a verifiable item – to mark as not completed an item that you had previously marked as completed.

#### Note:

This marks the entire verifiable item as completed or not completed, not just a particular section.

This dialog box appears automatically each time you exit the Maintain Verifiable Items screen. You can also access it manually by clicking the Complete Verifiable Item icon on the toolbar.

#### To Update Results for a Section:

- Click the Update Results button of the section you wish to update.
- ✓ That section's Maintain Verification Detail screen opens.
- √ (See Maintain Verification Details.)

#### To Complete or "Un-Complete" the Verifiable Item:

✓ Press Alt+C or click the Complete Verifiable Item icon. OR

Press Esc or click the Exit icon to exit the screen.

- ✓ The Complete Verifiable Item dialog box opens.
- ✓ As needed, press Spacebar or click to check or uncheck the Completed Verification of this Item field.
- ✓ If you have checked the Completed Verification of this Item field, verify or enter the Completion Date.
- ✓ Press Enter or click the OK button to close the Update Certification Step dialog box and return to the Browse Verifiable Items screen.

# **Maintain Verification Details**

The Maintain Verification Detail screens allow you to enter detailed information and results for any verification method section on the Maintain Verifiable Items screen.

There are five different Maintain Verification Detail screens, one for each of the possible sections on the Maintain Verifiable Items screen:

- Maintain Online Verification Detail Screen
- Maintain Third Party Written Verification Detail Screen
- Maintain Third Party Oral Verification Detail Screen
- Maintain Tenant Documented Detail Screen
- Maintain Self-Declaration Detail Screen

Because each of these screens is slightly different, we will walk through them separately.

You can access any of these screens by using the Update Results function on the Maintain Verifiable Items screen. (See *Maintain Verifiable Items*.)

#### To Open Any Maintain Verification Detail Screen:

- ✓ Click, on the Maintain Verifiable Items screen, the Update Results button of the section you wish to update.
- ✓ That section's Maintain Verification Detail screen opens.

# **Maintain Online Verification Details**

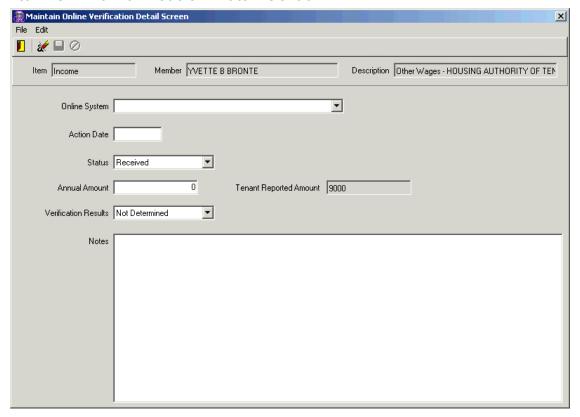
One of the more important parts of a certification is the verification of a household's total income. HUD requires you to use up-front verification whenever possible. Up-front verification sources are Internet or other electronic sources that allow you to confirm tenant income information, especially income and Social Security Numbers.

For more information on up-front income verification, including a partial list of sources, please see *Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook*, June 2003 (see Section 7.5, "Up-Front Income Verification"):

www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/rhiip/phguidebook.cfm

You can use the Maintain Online Verification Detail screen to enter information and results for an online income verification. This screen will open if you use the Update Results function from an Online Verification section of the Maintain Verifiable Items screen.

## Maintain Online Verification Detail Screen



This screen contains at least four editable data fields: **Online System**, **Action Date**, **Status**, and **Notes**.

If the status is "Received," the **Annual Income**, **Tenant Amount Reported**, and **Verification Results** fields also appear.

Non-editable fields appear at the top of this screen identifying the type of item you are verifying, the resident's name, and a description of the specific item you are verifying.

# **Online System**

Select the online system you used to verify this income.

#### **Action Date**

Select the date on which you verified this income.

#### **Status**

The Status field can be "Not Selected," "Pending," "Received," or "Not Received." "Not Selected" is the default; it means you have not attempted this verification method. "Pending" means you have requested verification and are waiting for a response. "Received" means you have received verification of the information. "Not Received" means you requested verification, but did not receive a response within your agency's allowable period of time.

#### **Notes**

Enter any notes about this verifiable item that might be helpful for your agency or for a RIM auditor.

# Annual Income, Tenant Amount Reported, and Verification Results

These fields appear only if the status is "Received."

The Annual Income and Tenant Amount Reported fields display the information you received from the verifying agency and the tenant, respectively.

The Verification Results field shows whether these two "Matched," there was a "Discrepancy," or an information match was "Not Determined."

#### To Enter Online Verification Information:

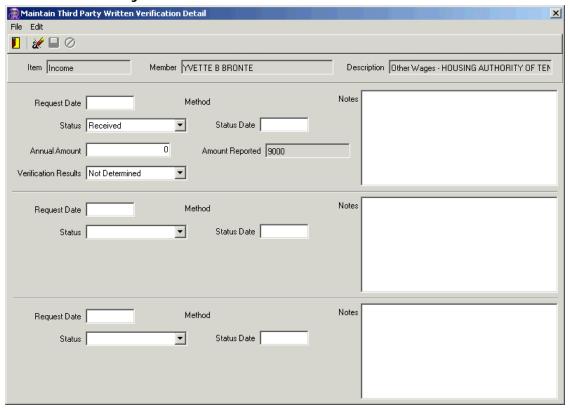
- ✓ Press Ctrl+E or click the Edit icon.
- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering or editing the information as needed.
- ✓ To save your changes, press Ctrl+S or click the Save icon.
- ✓ To cancel, press Ctrl+Q or click the Cancel icon.
- ✓ Press Esc or click the Exit icon to return to the Maintain Verifiable Items screen.

# Maintain Third Party Written Verification Details

Use written verification from a third party if online verification is not available.

You can use the Maintain Third Party Written Verification Detail screen to enter information and results for third party written verifications. This screen will open if you use the Update Results function from a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Written Verification section of the Maintain Verifiable Items screen.

# Maintain Third Party Written Verification Detail Screen



This screen contains at least four editable data fields: **Request Date**, **Status**, **Status Date**, and **Notes**.

If the status is "Received," the **Actual Verified**, **Tenant Reported**, and **Verification Results** fields also appear.

Non-editable fields appear at the top of this screen identifying the type of item you are verifying, the resident's name, and a description of the specific item you are verifying.

# **Request Date**

Enter the date on which you requested written verification from this third party.

#### Status

The Status field can be "Not Selected," "Pending," "Received," or "Not Received." "Not Selected" is the default; it means you have not attempted this verification method. "Pending" means you have requested verification and are waiting for a response. "Received" means you have received verification of the information. "Not Received" means you requested verification, but did not receive a response within your agency's allowable period of time.

#### **Status Date**

Enter the date for which the Status field value is valid (e.g., the date you received the verification or the date on which you determined it would not be received.).

#### Notes

Enter any notes about this verifiable item that might be helpful for your agency or for a RIM auditor.

# Actual Verified, Tenant Reported, and Verification Results

These fields appear only if the status is "Received."

The Actual Verified and Tenant Reported fields display the information you received from the verifying agency and the tenant, respectively.

The Verification Results field shows whether these two "Matched," there was a "Discrepancy," or an information match was "Not Determined."

## **To Enter Third Party Written Verification Information:**

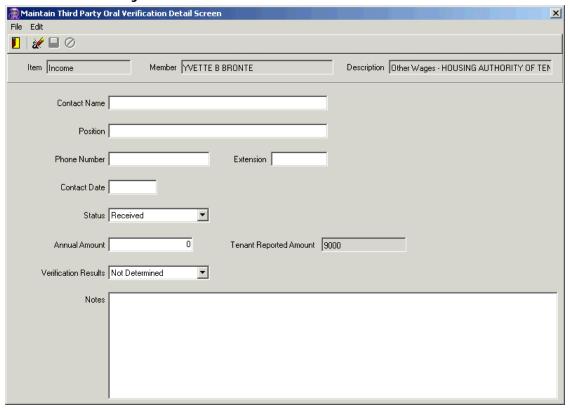
- ✓ Press Ctrl+E or click the Edit icon.
- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering or editing the information as needed.
- ✓ To save your changes, press Ctrl+S or click the Save icon.
- ✓ To cancel, press Ctrl+Q or click the Cancel icon.
- ✓ Press Esc or click the Exit icon to return to the Maintain Verifiable Items screen.

# Maintain Third Party Oral Verification Details

Oral verification from a third party as your next choice if neither online verification nor third party written verification is available.

You can use the Maintain Oral Verification Detail screen to enter information and results for a third party oral verification. This screen will open if you use the Update Results function from a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Oral Verification section of the Maintain Verifiable Items screen.

# Maintain Third Party Oral Verification Detail Screen



This screen contains at least seven editable data fields: Contact Name, Position, Phone Number, Extension, Contact Date, Status, and Notes.

If the status is "Received," the **Actual Verified**, **Tenant Reported**, and **Verification Results** fields also appear.

Non-editable fields appear at the top of this screen identifying the type of item you are verifying, the resident's name, and a description of the specific item you are verifying.

#### Contact Name and Position

Enter the name and position of the person who orally verified the information.

#### Phone Number and Extension

Enter this person's phone number and extension.

#### **Contact Date**

Enter the date on which this person orally verified the information.

#### Status

The Status field can be "Not Selected," "Pending," "Received," or "Not Received." "Not Selected" is the default; it means you have not attempted this verification method. "Pending" means you have requested verification and are waiting for a response. "Received" means you have received verification of the information. "Not Received" means you requested verification, but did not receive a response within your agency's allowable period of time.

### Notes

Enter any notes about this verifiable item that might be helpful for your agency or for a RIM auditor.

### Actual Verified, Tenant Reported, and Verification Results

These fields appear only if the status is "Received."

The Actual Verified and Tenant Reported fields display the information you received from the verifying agency and the tenant, respectively.

The Verification Results field shows whether these two "Matched," there was a "Discrepancy," or an information match was "Not Determined."

### **To Enter Third Party Oral Verification Information:**

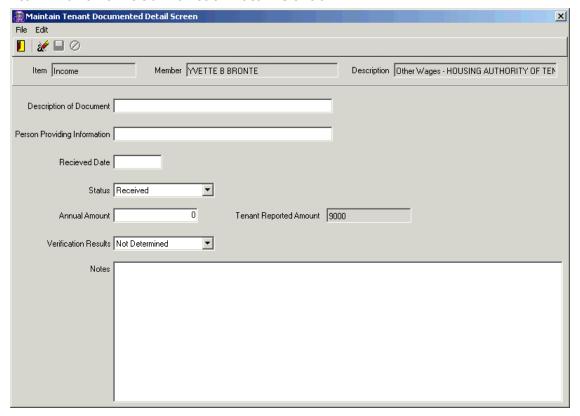
- ✓ Press Ctrl+E or click the Edit icon.
- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering or editing the information as needed.
- ✓ To save your changes, press Ctrl+S or click the Save icon.
- ✓ To cancel, press Ctrl+Q or click the Cancel icon.
- ✓ Press Esc or click the Exit icon to return to the Maintain Verifiable Items screen.

### **Maintain Tenant Documented Details**

If you are unable to verify a piece of information using online verification or third party written or oral verification, you may accept documents presented by the tenant as proof of the information.

You can use the Maintain Tenant Documented Detail screen to enter information and results for this documentation. This screen will open if you use the Update Results function from a Tenant Documented section of the Maintain Verifiable Items screen.

### Maintain Tenant Documented Detail Screen



This screen contains at least five editable data fields: **Description of Document**, **Person Providing Information**, **Received Date**, **Status**, and **Notes**.

If the status is "Received," the **Actual Verified**, **Tenant Reported**, and **Verification Results** fields also appear.

Non-editable fields appear at the top of this screen identifying the type of item you are verifying, the resident's name, and a description of the specific item you are verifying.

### **Description of Document**

Enter a short description of the tenant-supplied document (e.g., pay stub, driver's license, Social Security card).

### Person Providing Information

Enter the name of the person who supplied the document.

### Received Date

Enter the date you received the document.

### **Status**

The Status field can be "Not Selected," "Pending," "Received," or "Not Received." "Not Selected" is the default; it means you have not attempted this verification method. "Pending" means you have requested verification and are waiting for a response. "Received" means you have received verification of the information. "Not Received" means you requested verification, but did not receive a response within your agency's allowable period of time.

### Notes

Enter any notes about this verifiable item that might be helpful for your agency or for a RIM auditor.

### Actual Verified, Tenant Reported, and Verification Results

These fields appear only if the status is "Received."

The Actual Verified and Tenant Reported fields display the information you received from the verifying agency and the tenant, respectively.

The Verification Results field shows whether these two "Matched," there was a "Discrepancy," or an information match was "Not Determined."

### **To Enter Tenant Documented Information:**

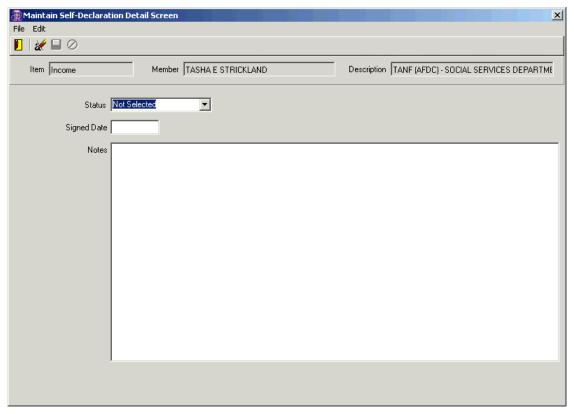
- ✓ Press Ctrl+E or click the Edit icon.
- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering or editing the information as needed.
- ✓ To save your changes, press Ctrl+S or click the Save icon.
- ✓ To cancel, press Ctrl+Q or click the Cancel icon.
- ✓ Press Esc or click the Exit icon to return to the Maintain Verifiable Items screen.

### Maintain Self-Declaration Details

If all other verification methods are unavailable, your agency's procedures may allow you to accept a notarized statement from the tenant as verification.

You can use the Maintain Self-Declaration Detail screen to record this type of verification. This screen will open if you use the Update Results function from a Self-Declaration section of the Maintain Verifiable Items screen.

### Maintain Self-Declaration Detail Screen



This screen contains three editable data fields: Status, Signed Date, and Notes.

Non-editable fields appear at the top of this screen identifying the type of item you are verifying, the resident's name, and a description of the specific item you are verifying.

### Status

The Status field can be "Not Selected," "Pending," "Received," or "Not Received." "Not Selected" is the default; it means you have not attempted this verification method. "Pending" means you have requested verification and are waiting for a response. "Received" means you have received verification of the information. "Not Received" means you requested verification, but did not receive a response within your agency's allowable period of time.

### Signed Date

Enter the date on which the tenant signed this verification.

### **Notes**

Enter any notes about this verifiable item that might be helpful for your agency or for a RIM auditor.

### To Enter Self-Declaration Information:

- ✓ Press Ctrl+E or click the Edit icon.
- ✓ Tab or click through the fields, entering or editing the information as needed.
- ✓ To save your changes, press Ctrl+S or click the Save icon.
- ✓ To cancel, press Ctrl+Q or click the Cancel icon.
- ✓ Press Esc or click the Exit icon to return to the Maintain Verifiable Items screen.

## **Finalize Certifications**

Finalizing the certification is the last step in the certification process. The Finalize Certification wizard allows you to verify that you have completed all certification steps, select an agency-defined packet of documents to print, and verify eTrans submission information. Completing this wizard will also set the status of the certification itself to "Completed."

You can access the Finalize Certification wizard from the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

### **To Start the Finalize Certification Wizard:**

- ✓ Open the certification you wish to finalize on the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen. (See Complete Certification Steps.)
- ✓ Press Ctrl+F or click the Finalize Certification icon on the Certifications tab.



### Use the Finalize Certification Wizard

The Finalize Certification wizard will guide you through four steps to finalize a certification:

- 1. Confirm Certification Information
- 2. Select Documents to Print
- 3. Make eTrans Record
- 4. Confirm Certification Information

We will walk through these steps separately.

### To Move to the Next Step:

✓ Press PageDown or click the Start, Next, or Finish button.

### To Move to the Previous Step:

✓ Press PageUp or click the Back button.

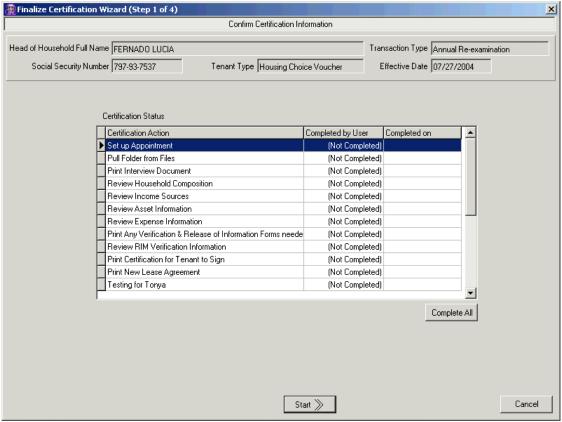
### To Cancel the Wizard at Any Time:

✓ Press Esc or click the Cancel button.

### Hint:

Until you finish Step 4, you can go back and change some of the information you have entered.





This step allows you to confirm that you have completed all the steps of this certification.

Step 1 contains a **Certification Status** table, which displays the steps of the current certification exactly as they appear on the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

Non-editable fields at the top of the screen show identifying information for the certification and the tenant household being certified.

This step also contains the **Complete All** function.

### **Complete All**

If you agency's procedures permit, you can use this function directly from the wizard to mark all uncompleted steps as complete.

Using the Complete All function here is identical to using it the from the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen. (See *Complete Certification Steps*.) It will enter your user name as the "Completed by User" and mark the "Completed On" field with the current date.

### Hint:

The information for all previously completed steps will remain unchanged. This function affects only uncompleted steps.

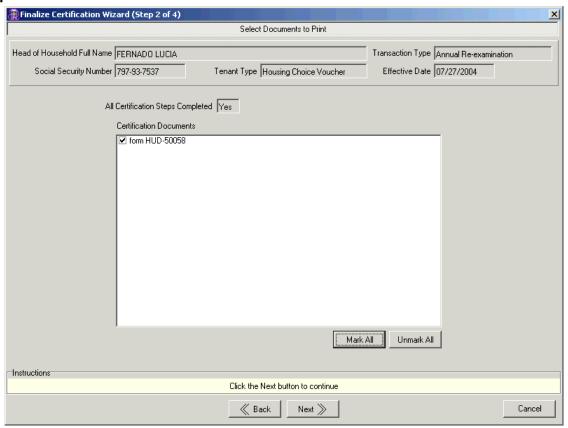
### To Complete All Uncompleted Steps:

- ✓ Press Alt+A or click the Complete All button.
- ✓ For each step that was not previously completed, the program enters your user name as the "Completed by User" and marks the "Completed On" field with the current date.

### To Complete Step 1:

- ✓ Verify that all steps are complete.
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Start button to go to the next step of the Finalize Certification wizard.

### Step 2: Select Documents to Print



This step allows you to select certification documents to print at the end of this wizard.

Step 2 contains one field, **Certification Documents**. It is optional.

This step also contains the Mark All and Unmark All functions.

The non-editable **All Certification Steps Completed** field flags whether all certification steps were completed.

### Certification Documents

All documents are checked by default. Uncheck any documents you do not wish to print.

For each checked document, a print dialog box will open when you click the Finish button on Step 7 of this wizard.

### Mark All and Unmark All

Click these buttons, respectively, to check or uncheck all documents.

### To Complete Step 2:

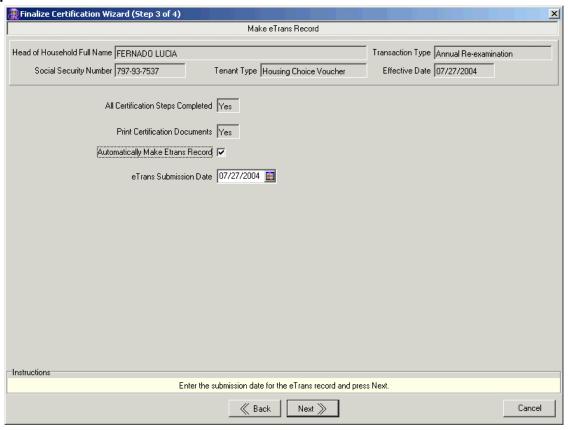
✓ Click the checkboxes in the Certification Documents field as needed to check or uncheck documents.

OR

Click the Mark All or Unmark All button, respectively, to check or uncheck all documents.

✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Finalize Certification wizard.

### Step 3: Make eTrans Record



This step allows you to verify or enter the date of the eTrans record for this certification.

Step 3 contains one editable data field, eTrans Submission Date. It is required.

Information from previous steps also appears near the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

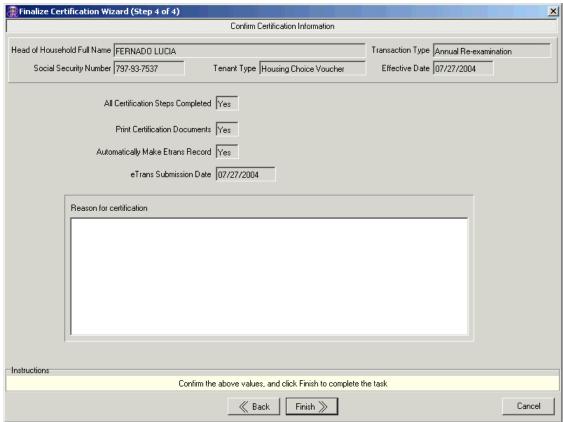
### eTrans Submission Date

This is the submission date of the eTrans record for this certification. It defaults to the effective date of the certification, but you may change the default, if necessary.

### To Complete Step 3:

- ✓ Verify or edit the eTrans submission date (required).
- ✓ Press PageDown or click the Next button to go to the next step of the Finalize Certification wizard.





This step allows you to confirm the information and to enter comments before you finish finalizing the certification.

Step 4 contains one editable field, **Comments**. It is optional.

Information from previous steps also appears at the top of the screen. These fields are not editable on this step.

### Comments

Enter any comments or additional information regarding this certification that may be helpful for your agency or a RIM auditor.

### To Complete Step 4:

- ✓ Enter any comments (optional).
- ✓ If anything is incorrect, press PageUp or click the Back button to go to the previous step(s) and correct it.
- ✓ If everything is correct, press PageDown or click the Finish button to finish finalizing the certification.

When you finish, you return to Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen, where the Certification Status field of this certification appears as Completed.

# CHAPTER **7**

# Implement Setup

This chapter will walk you step-by-step through entering Setup options.

### Note:

Please be especially careful when entering Setup options. Inaccurate settings can cause ORC to function in an unexpected manner. In addition, after you enter your initial settings, prevent accidental changes by using the Master Setup program to restrict access to the Setup screen. For help on doing this, please see the user manual for WinTen<sup>2</sup> Master Setup.

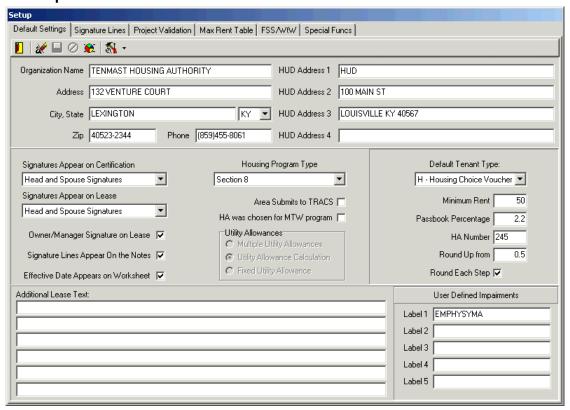
As mentioned above, the administrator of your WinTen<sup>2</sup> programs should review the planning and implementation of these Setup options at least annually.

You will use the ORC Setup screen to enter your options.

### To Open the ORC Setup Screen:

✓ Press S or click the Setup button on the Main Menu.

### **ORC Setup Screen**



The ORC Setup screen gives you access to many different Setup options. We will walk through the two following options, each with its own screen:

- Maintain Outside Agencies
- Maintain Certification Steps

# **Maintain Outside Agencies**

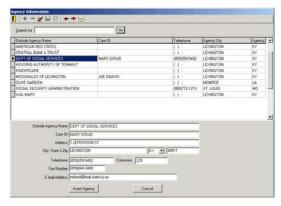
"Outside agencies" are agencies, organizations, or businesses with which you may have frequent contact regarding tenants. Your tenants may receive income from or pay expenses to these outside agencies. You may also contact these agencies to verify tenants' income, assets, expenses, and/or community service activities.

You are not required to maintain a list of outside agencies; you can enter this information manually for the appropriate tenant records. If you have frequent contact with any particular agency, however, entering that agency in your outside agencies list will streamline data entry and save time and effort for your staff.

The ORC program contains two screens from which you can maintain your outside agencies: the **Maintain Outside Agencies** screen and the **Agency Information** screen. You can add, edit, or delete agencies from either of these screens.

The Maintain Outside Agencies screen is available from the Default Settings tab of the ORC Setup screen. We will discuss it below.

You can access the Agency Information screen from various wizards that are available from the Tenant Detail screen. The main purpose of the Agency Information screen is to let you insert agency information in a tenant record, but you can also use it to add, edit, or delete agencies "on the fly." The Agency Information screen is essentially identical to the Maintain Outside Agencies screen, except that it has additional **Insert Agency** and **Cancel** buttons and has no **Print**, **Preview**, or **Show/Hide** icons.



Below, we will walk through using the Maintain Outside Agencies screen to define your outside agencies. Follow these same steps to work with the Agency Information screen.

You will access the Maintain Outside Agencies screen from the Default Settings tab of the ORC Setup screen.

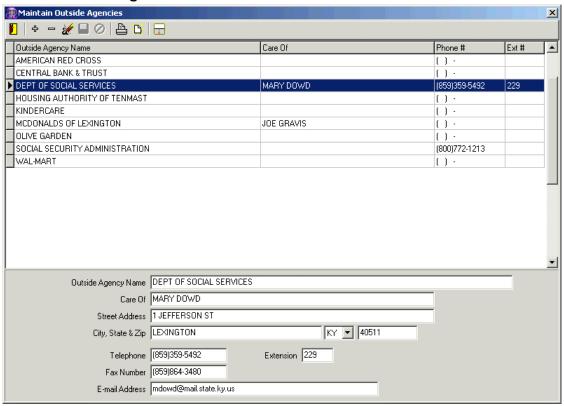
### To Open the Default Settings Tab:

- ✓ This tab appears by default when you open the ORC Setup screen.
- ✓ If you have left it, press Ctrl+Tab or click the Default Settings tab (at the upper left).

### To Open the Maintain Outside Agencies Screen:

✓ Click the Other Functions (Tools) icon drop-down arrow on the Default Settings tab, and then click Maintain Outside Agencies.

### Maintain Outside Agencies Screen



The Maintain Outside Agencies screen contains an agency table and a detail information section.

The agency table displays one row of information for each of your outside agencies.

The detail information section, by default, fills the bottom part of the screen. This section displays detailed information on the agency currently selected in the table above it. You can choose to show or hide the detail information section by pressing Ctrl+O or clicking the Show/Hide icon.

You will add or edit agencies in the detail information section; you cannot do so directly in the agency table.

The detail information section contains ten editable contact information fields. **Outside Agency Name** is required.

### **Outside Agency Name**

Enter the name of the agency.

### Care Of

If appropriate, enter the name of your primary contact person at this agency.

### To Show or Hide the Detail Information Section:

✓ Press Ctrl+O or click the Show/Hide icon.

### Hint:

If you have hidden this section, it will also "show" automatically when you add or edit a record.

### To Add an Outside Agency:

- ✓ Press Ctrl+A or click the Add icon on the Maintain Outside Agencies screen.
- ✓ Tab or click through the fields in the detail information section, entering the information. (Outside Agency Name is required.)
- ✓ To save this new outside agency, press Ctrl+S or click the Save icon.
- ✓ To cancel, press Ctrl+Q or click the Cancel icon.

### To Edit an Outside Agency:

- ✓ Select, in the agency table, the agency you wish to edit.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+E or click the Edit icon.
- ✓ Tab or click through the fields in the detail information section, changing information as needed.
- ✓ To save your changes, press Ctrl+S or click the Save icon.
- ✓ To cancel, press Ctrl+Q or click the Cancel icon.

### To Delete an Outside Agency:

- ✓ Select, in the agency table, the agency you wish to delete.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+D or click the Delete icon.
- ✓ Press Y or click the Yes button to confirm the deletion.

# **Maintain Certification Steps**

The ORC program allows your agency to define a different set of custom steps to complete each kind of certification you perform. This lets you customize the program to reflect your certification procedures and helps ensure consistency in the way your caseworkers process certifications. While a certification is in process, the appropriate steps will appear on the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen. (See *Complete Certification Steps*.)

Your agency can house many different types of tenants, such as Public Housing tenants, Housing Choice Voucher tenants, Section 8 Homeownership tenants, etc. For each of these types of tenants, you may perform many different types of certifications, such as new admission certifications, annual or interim reexaminations, portability move in or move out certifications, etc.

### Hint:

The ORC program uses the labels "Transaction Code" and "Transaction Type" to identify types of certifications. These labels correspond to the Transaction Type field on Form HUD-50058. Within the context used here, they pertain only to certification types.

For each different combination of "tenant type" and "transaction code" (certification type), you can define your own set of custom certification steps. For example, you can define one set of steps for a Public Housing new admission, a different set for a Public Housing *annual* reexamination, and a third set for a Public Housing *interim* reexamination. You can define entirely different steps for Housing Choice Voucher new admissions, Housing Choice Voucher annual reexaminations, Section 8 Homeownership new admissions, Section 8 Homeownership annual reexaminations, etc.

### Hint:

These are only a few examples; you can define custom steps for dozens of different combinations of "tenant type" and "transaction code."

We will walk through using the Maintain Certification Steps screen to define your certification steps. You will access this screen from the Default Settings tab of the ORC Setup screen.

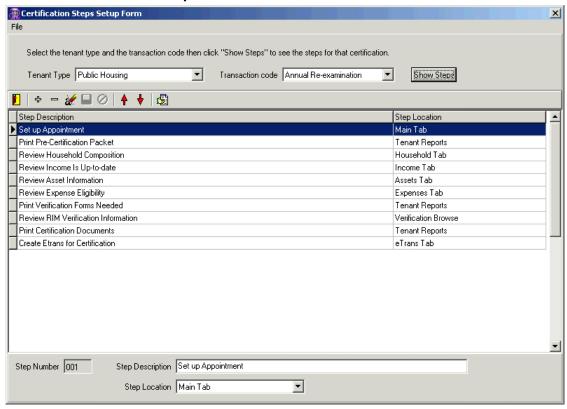
### To Open the Default Settings Tab:

- ✓ This tab appears by default when you open the ORC Setup screen.
- ✓ If you have left it, press Ctrl+Tab or click the Default Settings tab (at the upper left).

### To Open the Maintain Certification Steps Screen:

✓ Click the Other Functions (Tools) icon drop-down arrow on the Default Settings tab, and then click Certification Steps.

### Maintain Certification Steps Screen



The Maintain Certification Steps screen contains the **Tenant Type** and **Transaction Code** option fields, a table of certification steps, and a detail information section.

The Tenant Type and Transaction Code option fields appear at the top of the screen. They allow you to specify the certification for which you are defining the steps. You can define one set of certification steps for each different combination of tenant type and transaction code.

### Hint:

The ORC program uses the labels "Transaction Code" and "Transaction Type" to identify types of certifications. These labels correspond to the Transaction Type field on Form HUD-50058. Within the context used here, they pertain only to certification types.

The table below these option fields displays the set of certification steps for the tenant type/transaction code combination you have selected.

The detail information section appears at the bottom of the screen. This section displays information on the step currently selected in the table above it.

You will add or edit certification steps in the detail information section; you cannot do so directly in the table.

The detail information section contains three editable fields: **Step Number**, **Step Description**, and **Step Location**. Step Description is required.

You will edit the Step Number field by using the Move Certification Step Up and Move Certification Step Down icons on the icon bar.

### **Step Number**

This field identifies the sequence of the steps as they will appear for this certification on the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen. The steps are numbered from top to bottom as they appear on the Maintain Certification Steps screen; step number one is at the top.

You cannot edit this field directly. Instead, you will edit the Step Number by using the **Move Certification Step Up** and **Move Certification Step Down** icons on the icon bar.

### Step Description

Enter a short description to identify the step.

### **Step Location**

Select the screen within the ORC program to open when an employee processes this step.

When an employee processes a given certification step (from the Certifications tab of the Tenant Detail screen), the program can open a particular screen or "location" within the ORC program from which to complete that step. This location may be a tab of the Tenant Detail screen, a Tenant Reports print dialog, the Browse Verifications screen, or the FSS/WtW (Family Self-Sufficiency/Welfare to Work) Contract Information screen. You can define one location for each certification step.

### To Set the Tenant Type/Transaction Type Combination:

- ✓ Select the Tenant Type.
- ✓ Select the Transaction Type.
- ✓ Click the Show Steps button.

### Note:

It is very important that you select and verify this combination, as it defines the exact certification for which you are viewing, adding, editing, or deleting steps.

### To Add a Certification Step:

- ✓ Verify your choices for the Tenant Type and Transaction Type option fields.
- ✓ Click the Show Steps button.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+A or click the Add icon on the Maintain Certification Steps screen.
- ✓ Tab or click through the fields in the detail information section, entering the information. (Step Description is required.)
- ✓ To save this new step, press Ctrl+S or click the Save icon.
- ✓ To cancel, press Ctrl+Q or click the Cancel icon.

### To Change the Order of Steps:

- ✓ Verify your choices for the Tenant Type and Transaction Type option fields.
- ✓ Click the Show Steps button.
- ✓ Select, in the certification step table, the step you wish to move.
- ✓ Click the Move Certification Step Up icon to move this step up in the list.

  OR

Click the and Move Certification Step Down icon to move this step down in the list.

### To Edit a Certification Step:

- ✓ Verify your choices for the Tenant Type and Transaction Type option fields.
- ✓ Click the Show Steps button.
- ✓ Select, in the certification step table, the step you wish to edit.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+E or click the Edit icon.
- ✓ Tab or click through the fields in the detail information section, changing information as needed.
- ✓ To save your changes, press Ctrl+S or click the Save icon.
- ✓ To cancel, press Ctrl+Q or click the Cancel icon.

### To Delete a Certification Step:

- ✓ Verify your choices for the Tenant Type and Transaction Type option fields.
- ✓ Click the Show Steps button.
- ✓ Select, in the agency table, the step you wish to delete.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+D or click the Delete icon.
- ✓ Press Y or click the Yes button to confirm the deletion.

# **Appendixes**

### **APPENDIX**

# A

# **HUD Certification Rules**

This appendix briefly discusses HUD's certification requirements and provides a partial list of additional certification-related resources available from HUD's Web site and from Tenmast's RIMCheck.com Web site (www.rimcheck.com/rimrx).

### **HUD Requirements**

HUD requires your agency to establish procedures for conducting both public housing and housing choice voucher certifications. (Your certification procedures for these two types of housing may be slightly different.) In the case of public housing certifications, your procedures should be in accordance with your agency's Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy.

### Hint:

The additional resources listed at the end of this appendix include a sample admissions and continued occupancy policy.

During each certification, you must collect and verify information on each member of the family. This information includes such things as age, Social Security number, citizenship or eligible immigrant status, income, assets, and qualified income deductions. You must obtain third-party verification for much of this information.

Your certification procedures must allow you to collect and verify all information in a "proper and timely" manner and provide advanced notice to any family whose rent will change. Your procedures should take into consideration the amount of time (often substantial) it takes to receive third-party verifications.

Although there are other cases in which you may need to conduct certifications, you will conduct most of them for one of three reasons: new admissions, annual recertifications, and interim recertifications.

You must conduct a certification of each new family before you can admit them to your agency's subsidized housing program. This certification is also known as an "Initial Eligibility Determination." Certifications in this category can include those for new residents of public housing or new housing choice voucher families. They can also include "portability move-ins" to Section 8, families who bring to your agency vouchers they received from other agencies.

In most circumstances, you must recertify each household at least annually to verify that they are still eligible for the program they are in and to recalculate the amount of assistance they receive from your agency. Annual reexaminations must also verify that all adult family members are complying with community service and economic self-sufficiency requirements. (See *Community Service and Economic Self-Sufficiency*.)

You will conduct an interim recertification if a family's income, family composition, or other circumstances change between annual recertifications and that change would cause an adjustment in the family's level of assistance. Your agency's procedures should clearly spell out what changes trigger interim recertifications and how and when families must report these changes to you. In general, you *must* conduct an interim recertification if the change would

cause a decrease in the family's rent payments. Your procedures *may* require an interim recertification if the change would cause in *increase* in rent.

### Additional Resources

This manual provides only a brief, general discussion of HUD's certification requirements, not detailed instructions for formulating your agency's procedures and conducting certifications. For additional information, please see these and other resources available from HUD's Web site and from the RIMRx document page of Tenmast's RIMCheck.com Web site (www.rimcheck.com/rimrx).

1. Rental Integrity Monitoring (RIM) Guide:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/RIMGuide.pdf

2. Glossary of RIM Terms:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/RIMGlossary.pdf

3. Rental Integrity Monitoring (RIM) Reviews Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/RIMFAQ.pdf

4. *Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook*, June 2003 (see Chapter 7, "Verification Standards"; Chapter 12, "Annual Reexamination of Income and Family Circumstances"; and Chapter 13, "Interim Rent Adjustments"):

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/PHGuideBookNew.pdf

5. Sample Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy, Appendix III to the Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook (see Section VI, "Eligibility for Continued Occupancy, Annual Reexaminations, and Remaining Family Members"):

www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/rhiip/phgb\_app3.pdf

6. Housing Choice Voucher Program Guidebook, April 2001 (see Chapter 5, "Eligibility and Denial of Assistance," and Chapter 12, "Reexamination Procedures"):

www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/forms/guidebook.cfm

7. General Income and Rent Determination Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/RentDeterminationFAQ.pdf

8. HUD Fact Sheet, "How Your Rent Is Determined," For Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/HUDFactsheet-HowRentIsDetermined.pdf

9. Verification Guidance for the Public Housing & Housing Choice Voucher Programs, March 2004:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/RIMVerificationGuidance.pdf

10. Public Housing Verification Forms, Appendix VIII to the Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook:

www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/rhiip/phgb\_app8.pdf

11. Form HUD-9886, Authorization for the Release of Information/Privacy Act Notice:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/HUD-9886-ReleaseAuthorization.pdf

12. Document Package for Applicant's/Tenant's Consent to the Release of Information, attachment to forms HUD-9887 & 9887-A:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/HUDForm9887-ConsentPacket.pdf

13. Sample Additional Authorization for Release of Information Verification:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/Additional Authorization For Release Of Information. pdf

14. Sample Applicant and Re-exam Questionnaire:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/ApplicantandAnnualRe-examQuestionnaire.pdf

15. Sample Interview Questionnaire/Checklist.

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/Interviewquestionnaire-HUDTraining.pdf

16. Sample Interim Questionnaire/Checklist.

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/InterimQuestions.pdf

17. Upfront Income Verification (UIV) System:

www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/rhiip/uivsystem.cfm

18. Upfront Income Verification (UIV) System, PHA Security Procedures, April 2004:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/UIVSecurityGuide.pdf

19. HUD Guidelines for Projecting Annual Income When Upfront Income Verification (UIV) Data is Available, January 2004:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/HUDGUIDELINESForProjectingIncome.pdf

# APPENDIX **B**

# HUD Community Service and Economic Self-Sufficiency Rules

This appendix addresses the primary questions regarding HUD's rules for community service and economic self-sufficiency:

- What are HUD's requirements?
- Who is exempt from these requirements?

We also provide a partial list of additional resources available from HUD's Web site and from Tenmast's RIMCheck.com Web site.

### Note:

Your agency can modify some aspects of HUD's requirements, such as eligible activities. For this reason, your policies may differ slightly from those outlined here. Please refer to your agency's Community Service and Economic Self Sufficiency Policy and/or the additional resources listed below.

### **HUD Requirements**

Each month, each non-exempt adult resident of your public housing authority must perform at least eight hours of community service and/or economic self-sufficiency activities somewhere within the community served by your agency.

The requirement is *not* an *average* of eight hours per month. Under normal circumstances, residents must meet the eight-hour minimum *each* month. Your agency can determine if and when to allow residents to deviate from this monthly schedule.

Your agency's policy should include a list of "eligible activities" residents can perform to fulfill the requirements. The additional resources listed below include detailed lists of specific activities to include. Your agency may choose to include additional eligible activities.

In general, community service activities can include volunteer work for any local public or non-profit institution or organization. (This can also include volunteer work at your agency, such as providing childcare for other residents so they may volunteer.) Self-sufficiency activities, in general, can include educational programs, such as literacy, English as a second language, GED, junior college, or college; "life skills" activities, such as substance abuse, mental health, or financial counseling; or any training to enhance the resident's job skills or job readiness.

### Note:

HUD expressly excludes the following from eligible activities: political activities, employment, and work ordinarily performed by employees of your agency.

For any month, a resident may meet the requirement with community service activities or self-sufficiency activities or a combination of both. Residents must perform these activities within the local community and not "outside the jurisdictional area" of your agency.

Your non-exempt residents must provide your agency with documentation of their community service and/or self-sufficiency activities, including the signatures of instructors, counselors, or supervisors who certify the number of hours of activity. Residents must provide this documentation to you at least annually (at the annual reexamination), but your agency's policy may require them to provide it more frequently. Your policy should include your agency's documentation requirements, including the documentation form residents will use.

If you find at an annual reexamination that a resident has failed to meet the requirement for any of the previous twelve months, your agency must enter into an agreement with that resident to make up the hours over the next twelve months. This means that, for the next twelve months, the resident must meet *both* the current monthly requirements *and* the requirements to make up the deficiency from the prior year.

If, at the *next* annual reexamination, this resident has not met and/or made up all the requirements for the previous twenty-four months, HUD does not permit your agency to renew the lease for this resident's household, unless the noncompliant resident agrees to move out of the unit.

### **Exemptions**

Residents of public housing are exempt from community service requirements if they meet any *one* of the exemption criteria. In general, a resident is exempt if he or she is:

1. Age seventeen or younger,

OR

2. Age sixty-two or older,

OR

3. Working thirty or more hours per week on a permanent basis,

OR

4. Blind or disabled and can certify to your agency that because of this disability he or she is unable to comply with community service requirements,

OR

5. The primary caretaker of a blind or disabled individual who is unable to perform community service,

OR

6. A member of a family receiving assistance under a state welfare program.

A resident who meets any *one* of the exemption criteria is exempt from community service and economic self-sufficiency requirements. All other residents must comply.

At the original execution of a lease and at each annual reexamination, each exempt adult in the household must provide your agency with documentation verifying that he or she is exempt. Each adult resident of your housing authority must also notify your agency when his or her exempt status changes during a year. Your policy should include your agency's documentation and notification requirements, including the forms residents will use.

### Additional Resources

This manual provides only a brief, general discussion of community service and economic selfsufficiency rules, not detailed instructions for developing your agency's policy and administering the requirements. For additional information, please see these and other resources available

from HUD's Web site and from the RIMRx document page of Tenmast's RIMCheck.com Web site (www.rimcheck.com/rimrx).

1. *Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook*, June 2003 (see Chapter 15, "Community Service and Economic Self-Sufficiency"):

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/PHGuideBookNew.pdf

2. Appendices IV through VII to the *Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook* (see Appendix VI, "Community Service and Self Sufficiency Policy"):

www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/rhiip/phgb\_app4\_7new.pdf

3. Sample Blind/Disabled Notification of Community Service:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/CommunityService-BlindDisabledVerification.pdf

4. Sample Elderly Notification of Community Service:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/CommunityService-ElderlyNotification.pdf

5. Sample General Notification of Community Service:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/GeneralCommunityServiceVerification.pdf

### **APPENDIX**

# C

# Earned Income Disallowance

HUD's earned income disallowance (EID) benefit is designed to promote tenant self-sufficiency. It temporarily excludes or "disallows" from income calculations certain increases in earned income for qualified tenants. The result is that an EID participant's rent might not increase immediately, even though the person is earning more money.

### Hint:

Earned income disallowance is also known as "earned income exclusion," "earned income disregard," or "mandatory earned income disallowance (MEID)." All four of these terms mean the same thing.

While EID is an obvious and important benefit to your tenants, it can present an added burden to your agency in tracking participation in the program and correctly calculating rents. The Occupancy and Rent Calculation (ORC) program helps you with both of these tasks. As you maintain household income records (see *Maintain Income*) and perform certifications (see *Certifications*), the ORC program automatically maintains and tracks participation in EID and automatically adjusts income and rent calculations accordingly.

For more information on EID, please see the *HUD EID Rules* appendix to this manual.

### Note:

An adult eligible for EID can receive only one forty-eight month "disallowance period" during his or her lifetime. The ORC program creates and maintains EID records automatically only "going forward," as you create income records and perform certifications. Therefore, the program has no knowledge of previous participation in EID.

For these reasons, you must manually enter a history of all previous EID participation by your tenants when you first upgrade to WinTen<sup>2</sup> ORC. This is the only time you must enter EID information manually.

The remainder of this chapter walks you through monitoring EID information in ORC, which you can do at any time.

## **Monitor EID Information**

The ORC program maintains two types of records for each individual who participates in EID.

First, the program maintains one (and only one) "participant record" per person. This participant record identifies the individual and contains summary information on the person's overall participation in EID. You can use the Maintain EID Participants screen to monitor this information. You can access this screen from the Household tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

Second, the program also maintains one record for each separate period of continuous employment, *between certifications*, during which the person participates in EID.

### Hint:

In other words, the ORC program creates a new "EID employment record" each time the participant begins new employment under EID and each time the household undergoes an interim or annual recertification while the participant is employed under EID.

If the household undergoes an interim or annual recertification while the participant is employed under EID, the program "ends" the current employment record and immediately creates a new employment record.

These EID employment records track actual participation and allow the ORC program to calculate the correct disallowance amounts. You can use the Maintain EID Employment screen to monitor this information. You can access this screen from the Maintain EID Participants screen, above.

We will walk through monitoring both of these kinds of records.

# **Monitor EID Participants**

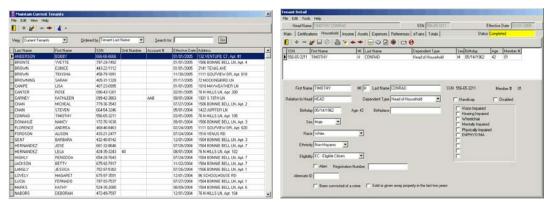
When an individual begins participation in EID, the ORC program creates that person's EID participant record.

For any resident, this is triggered the first time (and only the first time) you create an income record for the person that designates Earned Income Disallowance as the income exclusion type. (See *Maintain Income*.)

You can view EID participant information on the Maintain EID Participants screen. You can access this screen from the Household tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

### To Open the Household Tab:

- ✓ Locate the tenant for whose household you wish to view EID information.
- ✓ Open this tenant on the Tenant Detail screen.
- ✓ Press Ctrl+Tab or click the Household tab (at the upper left) on the Tenant Detail screen.

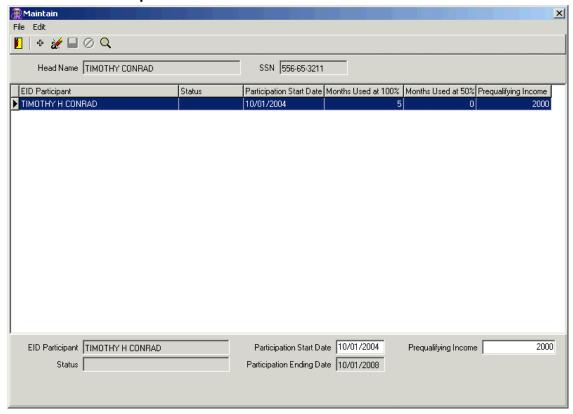


### To Open the Maintain EID Participants Screen:

✓ Click the Earned Income Disallowance icon on the Household tab.



### Maintain EID Participants Screen



The Maintain EID Participants screen contains non-editable fields at the top of the screen to identify the head of the selected household.

This screen also contains a participant table and a detail information section.

The participant table displays one row of information for each EID participant in the current household.

The detail information section, by default, appears at the bottom of the screen. This section displays detailed information on the participant currently selected in the table above it. You can choose to show or hide the detail information section by pressing Ctrl+O or clicking the Show/Hide icon.

The detail information section contains five data fields: **EID Participant**, **Status**, **Participation Start Date**, **Eligibility End Date**, and **Prequalifying Income**.

The participant table also includes additional columns displaying **Months Used at 100%** and **Months Used at 50%**.

### Status

An EID participant can have one of four statuses: Started, Paused, Completed, or Expired.

A Started status means the person has begun participation and is currently participating in EID.

A Paused status means the person has previously participated in EID, but is not currently participating. This status further indicates that this person is still eligible for participation (the lifetime forty-eight-month disallowance period has not yet expired).

A Completed status means the person is no longer eligible for EID because of completing twenty-four months of participation.

An Expired status means the person reached the end of the lifetime forty-eight-month disallowance period before completing twenty-four months of participation.

### Hint:

The effective result of the Completed and Expired statuses is the same: both mean the person is no longer eligible for EID.

### Participation Start Date

This is the effective date of the new employment or other increased earnings that *initially triggered* this person's eligibility for EID.

Depending on your agency's policy, this is either the actual date of the increased earnings or the first day of the month following the increased earnings. Please check your agency's policy.

### Note:

This date marks the beginning of the lifetime forty-eight-month disallowance period. It refers only to this person's very first participation in EID, not to any subsequent months of participation.

### **Eligibility End Date**

This date is exactly four years after the Participation Start Date and marks the end of the lifetime forty-eight-month disallowance period.

This person's eligibility for EID ends on this date or when this person completes the twenty-fourth month of actual participation in EID, whichever comes first.

### **Prequalifying Income**

This is the individual's last certified annual income *before* participation in EID. This prequalifying annual income remains the same during the entire forty-eight-month disallowance period.

### Months Used at 100% and Months Used at 50%

During the first twelve cumulative months (the "initial period") of participation, 100 percent of a participant's increased earnings are disallowed from income calculations. During the remaining twelve cumulative months (the "phase-in period") of participation, 50 percent of the increased earnings are disallowed.

These columns of the table display each participant's months of actual participation at these two disallowance levels, based on the information for each participant as it appears on the Maintain EID Employment screen. (See *Monitor EID Employment*.)

### To Show or Hide the Detail Information Section:

✓ Press Ctrl+O or click the Show/Hide icon.

### To Exit this Screen:

✓ Press Esc or click the Exit icon.

# **Monitor EID Employment**

For each EID participant, the ORC program maintains one "EID employment" record for each separate period of continuous employment, *between certifications*, during which the person participates in EID.

### Hint:

In other words, the ORC program creates a new EID employment record each time the participant begins new employment under EID and each time the household undergoes an interim or annual recertification while the participant is employed under EID.

If the household undergoes an interim or annual recertification while the participant is employed under EID, the program "ends" the current employment record and immediately creates a new employment record.

The ORC program uses these EID employment records to track automatically which months of participation are at the 100% disallowance level (the first twelve cumulative months) and which months are at the 50% disallowance level (the next twelve cumulative months).

The program then uses this information to calculate the "exclusion amount" for each income record that uses the EID exclusion (see *Maintain Income*) and to calculate rent correctly during a certification (see *Certifications*).

You can view EID employment information on the Maintain EID Employment screen. You can access this screen from the Maintain EID Participants screen, above. (See *Monitor EID Participants*.)

### Hint:

You can also access this screen on the fly by clicking the EID History button on Step 2 of the Add Income Wizard. (See Maintain Income and Add Income.)

### To Open the Maintain EID Participants Screen:

✓ Click the Earned Income Disallowance icon on the Household tab of the Tenant Detail screen.

### To Open the Maintain EID Employment Screen:

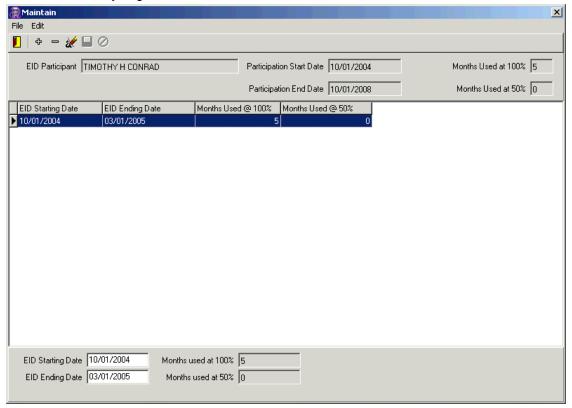
- ✓ Select, on the Maintain EID Participants Screen, the EID participant you wish to edit.
- ✓ Click the EID Detail icon.



### Hint:

You can also double-click a participant record to select it and open the Maintain EID Employment screen.

### Maintain EID Employment Screen



The Maintain EID Employment screen contains a summary information section, a table of EID employment records, and a detail information section.

The summary information section appears at the top of the screen. It contains summary information on this person's overall participation in EID. This information also appears on the Maintain EID Participants screen. (For more information on these fields, see *Monitor EID Participants* and *Maintain EID Participants Screen.*)

The table below the summary section displays one row of information for each of this person's EID employment records. In other words, each row represents the months of one period of continuous employment, *between certifications*, during which this person participated in EID.

The detail information section appears at the bottom of the screen. This section displays information on the employment record currently selected in the table above it. Note that this information pertains *only* to the one employment record currently selected, not to this person's overall participation in EID.

The detail information section contains four data fields: **EID Starting Date**, **EID Ending Date**, **Months Used at 100%**, and **Months Used at 50%**.

### **EID Starting Date**

This is the effective date on which this person 1) began the new employment or other increased earnings that initially triggered eligibility for EID, 2) resumed participation in EID after having been unemployed, or 3) underwent an interim or annual recertification while employed under EID.

### **EID Ending Date**

This is the effective date on which this person 1) stopped working or had some other decrease in earnings, 2) underwent an interim or annual recertification while employed under EID, or 3) reached the end of the lifetime forty-eight-month disallowance period.

### Hint:

If the household undergoes an interim or annual recertification while the participant is employed under EID, the program "ends" the current employment record and immediately creates a new employment record.

### Months Used at 100% and Months Used at 50%

During the first twelve cumulative months (the "initial period") of participation, 100 percent of a participant's increased earnings are disallowed from income calculations. During the remaining twelve cumulative months (the "phase-in period") of participation, 50 percent of the increased earnings are disallowed.

Based on this person's overall participation in EID, these fields automatically display the months of participation at these two disallowance levels for this one period of employment.

### Note:

The four fields in the detail information section pertain only to the one employment record currently selected, not to this person's overall participation in EID.

### To Exit this Screen:

✓ Press Esc or click the Exit icon.

# APPENDIX D HUD EID Rules

This appendix addresses the primary questions regarding HUD's rules for earned income disallowance:

- Who is eligible for the benefit?
- For those who are eligible, how much income is disallowed from income calculations and for how long is it disallowed?

Because of the complexity of administering EID, we also provide a list of additional resources available from Tenmast's RIMCheck.com Web site.

### Eligibility

EID is never available to new admissions to public housing or to new applicants for other assistance. It is available only to members of households already being housed or assisted. Minors (other than the head of household or the spouse of the head of household) also never qualify for EID, because their earnings are not included in rent calculations.

In general, current adult residents of public housing are eligible for EID if they meet any *one* of the three criteria listed below. In addition, disabled adults who receive assistance through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program, or the Supportive Housing Program are also eligible for EID if they meet any *one* of these criteria.

The three criteria are:

1. The person had an increase in annual income because of going to work after having been unemployed for at least twelve months.

### Note:

For EID purposes, the person is considered to have been unemployed if he or she earned less in the twelve months previous to employment than he or she would have earned if working ten hours per week for fifty weeks at the established minimum wage.

For example, if \$5.15 per hour is the established minimum wage in your locality, the person is considered to have been unemployed if he or she earned less than  $$2,575 ($5.15 \times 10 \times 50)$  in the twelve months previous to employment.

OR

The person had in increase in annual income because of new or increased earnings
while taking part in a job-training program or economic self-sufficiency program. This
increase in income must have occurred *during* participation in the program, not
afterward.

OR

3. The person had in increase in annual income because of new or increased earnings while receiving benefits or within six months after receiving benefits from a qualified welfare program, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

### Note:

If these benefits were (or are) for anything other than monthly income maintenance (e.g., if they were for wage subsidies, transportation assistance, or a one-time benefit), the benefits must have totaled at least \$500 during the six months before the person's increase in income. For those receiving monthly income maintenance (cash assistance), no minimum amount of benefits is required.

An eligible adult can receive only one EID "disallowance period" during his or her lifetime. The disallowance period is forty-eight consecutive months, i.e., forty-eight calendar months from start to finish.

However, the person can actually participate in EID for only twenty-four of those forty-eight months. In other words, increased earnings from only twenty-four of the forty-eight months can actually be disallowed from income calculations. There can be gaps in participation when, for example, the person is again unemployed. (The twenty-four months of participation are cumulative, not consecutive.)

The person's eligibility for EID ends after the twenty-fourth month of participation or at the end of the lifetime forty-eight-month disallowance period, whichever comes first. If, for example, the person works and participates in EID for only twenty months before the disallowance period expires, the four remaining months of participation are lost.

### **Disallowance Amounts**

When the person begins participation in EID, you must calculate both the disallowance amount ("exclusion amount") and the amount of the participant's income to include in the household's rent calculation. You must recalculate both of these (during an interim reexamination) each time the person has a change in either earned *or* unearned income while participating in EID.

### Hint:

"Disallowance" and "exclusion" mean the same thing. We use these terms interchangeably.

The calculation of disallowance amounts can become confusing, but the ORC program will automatically perform all of the calculations for you. If you would like to learn more about disallowance calculations, please see the additional resources listed at the end of this appendix, which include an EID worksheet and a spreadsheet-based calculator.

### Note:

All income calculations discussed in this section refer to annual income.

Disallowance calculations always include the person's prequalifying or "baseline" income, which is the last certified annual income *before* participation in EID. This prequalifying income is set when the person begins participation in EID and remains the same during the entire forty-eightmonth disallowance period.

### Note:

If the person is under an imputed welfare income sanction when beginning participation in EID, include the imputed welfare income in the prequalifying income.

Income exclusions apply only to a person's earned income and cannot be greater than the earned income. When *calculating* exclusions, however, you must take into consideration both earned and "other," *unearned* income. Other income may include such things as welfare assistance, Social Security, child support, or unemployment benefits.

To determine the "full exclusion" amount, calculate the participant's total income (both earned and unearned) and then subtract the prequalifying income. (Full Exclusion = Earned Income + Other Income – Prequalifying Income) This is the full exclusion amount, unless it is greater than earned income. Use this calculated amount or the person's total *earned* income, whichever is *less*.

During the first twelve cumulative months of EID participation, 100 percent of the full exclusion amount is excluded from earned income. (HUD refers to this as the "initial period" of participation.) During the remaining twelve cumulative months of participation, only 50 percent of the full exclusion amount is excluded from earned income. (HUD refers to this as the "phase-in period" of participation.)

### Note:

As mentioned above, each time the person has a change in either earned or unearned income while participating in EID, you must recalculate both the exclusion amount and the amount of income to include in the household's rent calculation. You must also recalculate both of these when the person begins the thirteenth cumulative month of participation (the beginning of the phase-in period).

To determine how much of the EID participant's income to include in the household's rent calculation, calculate the participant's total income (both earned and unearned) and then subtract the appropriate exclusion amount.

During the initial period (first twelve cumulative months), Income for Rent Calculation = Earned Income + Other Income – Full Exclusion.

During the phase-in period (last twelve cumulative months), Income for Rent Calculation = Earned Income + Other Income – 50% of Full Exclusion.

Adding together the "income for rent calculation" of all adult family members will give you the total family income to use for the household's rent calculation. Note, however, that income for other family members may have exclusions other than EID. (See *Maintain Income* and *Maintain Expenses*.)

### Additional Resources

This manual provides only a brief, general discussion of earned income disallowance rules, not detailed instructions for administering the benefit. For additional information, please see these and other resources available from the RIMRx document page of Tenmast's RIMCheck.com Web site (www.rimcheck.com/rimrx).

1. Public Housing Occupancy Guidebook, June 2003 (see Section 10.9, "Earned Income Disallowance (EID)"):

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/PHGuideBookNew.pdf

2. General Income and Rent Determination Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (see questions twelve to eighteen, "Annual Income – Earned Income Disallowance (EID)"):

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/RentDeterminationFAQ.pdf

3. Admission and Occupancy FAQ:

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/EIDFAQ.pdf

4. Sample EID Questionnaire/Checklist.

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/EarnedIncomeDisallowanceQuestionnaire.pdf

5. EID Worksheet.

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/EarnedIncomeDisallowanceWorksheet.pdf

6. EID Worksheet and Calculator (Microsoft Excel spreadsheet):

www.rimcheck.com/rimrx/documents/HUDsEIDCalculator.xls

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