



## CONSIDERATIONS FOR A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

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### **What is a “reasonable accommodation”?**

It is a change, exception or adjustment to a rule, policy, practice, or service that may be necessary for a person with a disability to have an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling, including public and common use spaces.

### **Who qualifies for reasonable accommodation?**

A person with disabilities. The Fair Housing Act defines a person with a disability to include (1) individuals with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; (2) individuals who are regarded as having such an impairment; and (3) individuals with a record of such an impairment. An applicant or participant is not entitled to receive a reasonable accommodation unless he/she requests one.

### **Are there any instances when a provider can deny a request for a reasonable accommodation without violating the Act?**

Yes. MHA can deny a request for a reasonable accommodation if the request was not made by or on behalf of a person with a disability or if there is no disability-related need for the accommodation. In addition, a request for reasonable accommodation may be denied if providing the accommodation is not reasonable – *i.e.*, if it would impose an undue financial and administrative burden on MHA or it would fundamentally alter the nature of MHA’s operations.

### **Examples of Reasonable Accommodations:**

- ▽ Home visits if your disability prevents you from coming to our office
- ▽ Allowing a higher subsidy to cover costs associated with renting a unit in the community that meets disability-related needs
- ▽ An accessible format for MHA correspondence
- ▽ The use of an advocate or interpreter
- ▽ A current listing of accessible units known to the MHA that may be available