

CHELSEA HOUSING AUTHORITY

SERVICE AND ASSISTANCE ANIMAL POLICY

Approved by the Board of Directors on October 16th, 2024.

A request for a reasonable accommodation for assistance animals must be processed in accordance with the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity section in the Fair Housing and Nondiscrimination Requirement, Chapter Two of the Chelsea Housing Authority's (CHA) ACOP. The reasons for denying an accommodation request, include, but are not limited to:

- 1) The requested service or assistance animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation; or
- 2) The requested service or assistance animal would cause substantial physical damage to the property of others that cannot be reduced or eliminated by another reasonable accommodation.

No deposit is charged for service or assistance animals. There are no height, weight, or breed limits for service or assistance animals, and service or assistance animals may accompany the resident anywhere the resident is permitted access.

Service and assistance animals may, however, be denied access to any area or facility if the animal is out of control and its handler is unable to control it; or the animal has a history of eliminating its bodily waste in common areas; or the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level by a reasonable modification to other policies, practices and procedures.

When a resident's care or handling of a service or assistance animal violates these policies, the CHA will consider whether the violation can be reduced or eliminated by reasonable accommodation. If the CHA determines that no such accommodation can be made, the CHA may withdraw the approval of a particular service or assistance animal. Any denial or removal of a service or assistance animal may be appealed pursuant to the CHA's reasonable accommodation appeal process.

All assistance animals must be reported to the CHA. Such reporting shall consist of providing the following:

- 1) Name, type, age, and description.
- 2) Must provide a picture of the assistance animal.
- 3) Verification of inoculations against rabies, distemper and required vaccines, and certification of spay/neuter.

4) Must sign a service or assistance animal lease addendum.

For more information about requesting a reasonable accommodation, please contact the CHA's Section 504 Coordinator, Ineudira Barbosa at (617) 409-5333.