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Below Market Rate Programs: Establishing Waiting Lists

Georgina Mascarenhas, VP of Property Management altahousing.org gmascarenhas@altahousing.org

Recommendations to improve BMR application process

- Alta Housing, our role
- Establishing BMR Waiting Lists
 - Current Procedure (Interest List) vs. Recommended (Waiting Lists)
 - Advantages of Waiting Lists
 - **Procedure to Launch Waiting Lists**
- Q&A

Our Role

AH, day-to-day:

- Manages AH-owned 700+ affordable housing rental units
- Provides on-site residential services
- Acquires and/or develops affordable housing projects
- Provides **BMR consultation and administrative services** to cities (current clients Los Altos and Palo Alto)

Establishing BMR Waiting Lists Current Los Altos BMR Procedure:

- BMR Ownership with every new sale a 30-day ad is placed in Los Altos Town Crier
- Email is sent to the City of LA Housing Director & the LA school district contact
- Ownership applicants submit an application packet consisting of 75+ pages
- BMR Rentals individual vacancies require marketing efforts similar to above administered by individual site staff/developer
- One informal "interest" list w/ names and e-mail addresses, does not replace ads
- Los Altos priority ranking applied to applications turned in before deadline

Recommended:

- Establish/Implement <u>separate</u> waiting lists for <u>ownership and rental</u> program
- Replace priority ranking with one live/work preference

Advantages of Waiting Lists

- Saves on cost of ad \$750.00 for 30 days
- Saves on staff time
- Minimizes rental vacancy loss + arbitrary resident selection
- Saves on applicant time compiling application packet
- Eliminates paper waste
- No lag time vs. 30 days to start processing applications
- Establishes centralized database and ensures units are assigned fairly
- Decreases the chance that applicants will drop-out due to lack of knowledge

Procedure to Launch Waiting Lists





Additional questions can be e-mailed to: **Rubi Valencia Mascarenhas BMR Program Administrator** rvalencia@altahousing.org gmascarenhas@altahousing.org

Georgina

VP Property Management

(650) 321-9709