

NOTICE REGARDING REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

The Bourne Housing Authority (BHA) is a public agency that provides low rent housing to eligible families, elderly/handicapped/disabled households and single people. The BHA does not discriminate against applicants on the basis of their race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital or familial status, disability, age, receipt of public assistance or sexual preference.

Under applicable law, the BHA provides “reasonable accommodation” to applicants, residents and program participants if they or any household member(s) have a disability or handicap and if the reasonable accommodation is necessary to provide an equal opportunity to use and enjoy the housing.

A reasonable accommodation is some modification or change the BHA can make to its apartments or procedures that will assist an otherwise eligible applicant with disability/handicap to take advantage of the BHA’s programs, provided that the change does not pose an undue financial and administrative burden to the BHA or require a fundamental change in its program.

Examples of reasonable accommodation may include the BHA:

- Installing flashing light smoke detectors in an apartment for a household with a hearing impaired member;
- Making a reader available to a vision-impaired applicant during an interview;
- Making a sign language interpreter available to a hearing-impaired applicant during an interview;
- Permitting an outside agency to assist an applicant with a disability/handicap to meet the BHA’s applicant screening criteria.

An applicant household that has a member with a disability/handicap must still be able to meet essential obligations of tenancy—they must be able to pay rent, to care for their apartment, to report required information to the housing authority, to avoid disturbing their neighbors, etc. This requirement takes into consideration whether any requested reasonable accommodation would permit the applicant to be considered eligible.

If you or a member of your household have a disability or handicap and think you might need or want a reasonable accommodation (this may include an alternative form of communication), you may request it in writing at any time in the application process or after admission. This is up to you. If you would prefer not to discuss your situation with the Housing Authority, that is your right.

You can get a Request for Reasonable Accommodation form at the Housing Authority Main office located at 871 Shore Rd., Pocasset, MA 02559 or by calling 508-563-7485.

If you require help in filling out that form or need to submit your request in some other way, you should contact Bourne Housing Authority at 508-563-7485.