PART II: SUBSIDY STANDARDS AND VOUCHER ISSUANCE

5-II.A. OVERVIEW

The SCHA must establish subsidy standards that determine the number of bedrooms needed for families of different sizes and compositions. This part presents the policies that will be used to determine the family unit size (also known as the voucher size) a particular family should receive, and the policies that govern making exceptions to those standards. The SCHA must also establish policies related to the issuance of the voucher, to the voucher term, and to any extensions of the voucher term.

5-II.B. DETERMINING FAMILY UNIT (VOUCHER) SIZE [24 CFR 982.402]

For each family, the SCHA determines the appropriate number of bedrooms under the SCHA subsidy standards and enters the family unit size on the voucher that is issued to the family. The family unit size does not dictate the size of unit the family must actually lease, nor does it determine who within a household will share a bedroom/sleeping room.

The following requirements apply when the SCHA determines family unit size:

- The subsidy standards must provide for the smallest number of bedrooms needed to house a family without overcrowding.
- The subsidy standards must be consistent with space requirements under the housing quality standards.
- The subsidy standards must be applied consistently for all families of like size and composition.
- A child who is temporarily away from the home because of placement in foster care is considered a member of the family in determining the family unit size.
- A family that consists of a pregnant woman (with no other persons) must be treated as a two- person family.
- Any live-in aide (approved by the SCHA to reside in the unit to care for a family member who is disabled or is at least 50 years of age) must be counted in determining the family unit size;
- Unless a live-in-aide resides with a family, the family unit size for any family consisting of a single person must be either a zero- or one-bedroom unit, as determined under the SCHA subsidy standards.

<u>SCHA Policy</u>

In determining family unit size, SCHA will *:* ~~use the standard of two persons per bedroom/sleeping room regardless of age, relationship or gender, with the following exceptions:~~

- *Assign one bedroom for the Head of Household (and Spouse/Co-Head, if applicable).*
- *Use the standard of two persons per bedroom, regardless of age, relationship or gender except in the following circumstances:*

- *A minor child of the head of household (son or daughter age 17 or younger) will not be required to share a bedroom with an adult).*
- *Live-in aides will be allocated a separate bedroom.*

~~Single head of household will be allocated a separate bedroom.~~
~~Live-in aides will be allocated a separate bedroom.~~

- Single person families will be allocated one bedroom.

The family unit size does not dictate the size of the unit the family must actually lease, or determine who within a household will share a bedroom or a living/sleeping room.

SCHA will reference the following chart in determining the appropriate voucher size for a family:

Voucher Size	**Persons in Household** **(Minimum – Maximum)**
1 Bedroom	1-2
2 Bedrooms	2-4
3 Bedrooms	3-6
4 Bedrooms	4-8
5 Bedrooms	6-10