

**MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY
REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION REQUEST**

Head of Household: _____ Phone: (____) _____
(PRINT NAME)

Requestor: _____

(PERSON REQUESTING REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION IF OTHER THAN HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, PRINT NAME)

Address: _____ Client #: _____

Signature: _____
(Head of Household, Other Requestor, or Authorized Representative of Requestor)

A disability is defined, in part, as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; a record of having such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment.

A Public Housing resident may request a change in his or her current unit or a transfer to a unit that has already been changed (in the resident's development or another development). An applicant, resident, or program participant may request assistance with, or change in, a MDPHA practice, rule, policy, procedure, program or service.

MDPHA will work with the applicant, resident or program participant to determine how to provide the reasonable accommodation request. MDPHA may require documentation to support the reasonable accommodation request(s).

1. The following is the name of the household member with a disability who needs a reasonable accommodation:

Name: _____

2. Because of the above household member's disability, the following change(s) or assistance (reasonable accommodation) is necessary so that the individual can participate in a Miami-Dade Public Housing Agency (MDPHA) housing assistance program as easily or successfully as other program participants. Check the kind of change(s) you need.

A change or special feature in a MDPHA dwelling, building or property. Note: If you are a Section 8 program participant, you must make these kinds of requests to your landlord.

Assistance with, or change in, a MDPHA practice, rule, policy, procedure, program or service.

3. Describe the problem that the household member named in item 1 is having, or might have, with a MDPHA dwelling, building, property, practice, rule, policy, procedure, program or service:

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4. Describe the type of change or assistance (reasonable accommodation) required:

5. Describe how this change or assistance will help with the problem:

6. Indicate the verification source MDPHA may contact to verify that the household member named in item 1 has a disability and needs a reasonable accommodation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____

Note: Individuals may obtain a copy of the MDPHA Reasonable Accommodation Policies and Procedures, upon request, from Applicant and Leasing Center Eligibility Interviewers, Public Housing Site Managers, Section 8 Leasing and Contract Specialists, and the ADA Coordinator. You may also get additional copies of this request form from the ADA Coordinator:

ADA Coordinator
Overtown Transit Village
701 NW 1 Court, 16th Floor
Miami, Florida 33136
(786) 469-4229 phone
(786) 469-4151 fax
Florida Relay Service: (800) 955-8771 (TDD/TTY)

This material is available in an accessible format upon request. Please call the ADA Coordinator at (786) 469-4229 (phone) – Florida Relay Service (800) 955-8771 (TDD/TTY).

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EXAMPLES OF REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The following list of reasonable accommodation methods are examples that may constitute reasonable accommodations for individual Miami-Dade Public Housing Agency (MDPHA) applicants, residents, and program participants. These accommodations may not necessarily be “reasonable” for all individuals. In addition, each accommodation may not be available to every applicant, resident in every unit and/or in every development, and program participants.

Examples of Modifications Which Constitute a Reasonable Accommodation

Section 504 states that the design, construction or alteration of buildings in conformance with §§ 3-8 of the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), Appendix A to 24 C.F.R. § 40, shall be deemed to comply with the requirements of 24 C.F.R. §§ 8.21; 8.22; 8.23 and 8.25. However, the UFAS citations noted below are provided as a reference to assist in providing a reasonable accommodation and are not intended to govern every request for a modification. In order to meet the individual’s specific disability-related need(s), MDPHA may need to deviate from the UFAS. In addition, the reference to a UFAS section does not require all elements in that section to be made accessible. Rather, only the specific reasonable accommodation item requested is required to be accessible per the needs of the individual requesting the reasonable accommodation.

However, some modifications may not be structurally feasible in all units or all developments; in addition, some modifications may represent an undue financial and administrative burden. In such situations, the requirement to provide a reasonable accommodation is not alleviated, but must be provided by some other means such as transferring a family with a disabled member to a unit/development where the reasonable accommodation can be provided. Nevertheless, MDPHA will work with each qualified resident with a disability who requests a reasonable accommodation in order to identify a reasonable, effective and appropriate accommodation.

Common Areas¹ -

- Add edge protection to ramps and ramp landings with drop-offs
- Widen doors
- Provide accessible, lever-type door hardware
- Re-hang door to lay flat against a wall when opened
- Re-hang door to swing outward instead of into the accessible space
- Provide accessible or adjustable closet rods and shelves
- Provide lever faucets in public restrooms
- Provide grab bars in public restrooms
- Provide accessible toilets in public restrooms
- Lower mirrors in public restrooms
- Provide extra electrical outlets for TDD/TTY equipment
- Provide heavier electrical circuits to accommodate higher wattage bulbs for individuals with visual impairments
- Provide visual alarms for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Provide accessible cabinets and countertops in public kitchens

¹ Common Areas include, but are not limited to: PHA offices, including management and regional offices; private management company offices; community room; senior center; meeting room; mail room; laundry room; trash disposal; and, day care facilities.

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- Provide accessible appliances [i.e., refrigerator, oven, stove] in public kitchens

Elevators² -

- Elevators shall be located on an accessible route
- Residential or fully enclosed wheelchair lifts may be used, when appropriate, and when approved by local administrative authorities. See UFAS §§ 4.10.1; 4.11

Building Entrances and Accessible Routes³ -

- Accessible signage;
- Add edge protection to ramps and ramp landings with drop-offs
- Widen doors
- Provide accessible, lever-type door hardware
- Re-hang door to lay flat against a wall when opened
- Re-hang door to swing outward instead of into the accessible space
- Add or adjust door closures
- Provide lever faucets in public restrooms
- Provide grab bars in public restrooms
- Provide accessible toilets in public restrooms
- Lower mirrors in public restrooms
- Provide extra electrical outlets for TDD/TTY equipment
- Provide heavier electrical circuits to accommodate higher wattage bulbs for individuals with visual impairments
- Provide visual alarms for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Providing contrasting paint on doors, around doorways, at windows, baseboards and/or stairs/risers for individuals with visual impairments
- Provide an accessible route into a building

² Accessible elevators shall be on an accessible route and shall comply with UFAS § 4.10 and with the American National Standard Safety Code for Elevators, Dumbwaiters, Escalators and Moving Walks, ANSI A17.1-1978 and A17.1a-1979. See UFAS § 4.10; Figures 20, 22 and 23. An “accessible route” is a continuous, unobstructed UFAS-compliant path as prescribed in 24 C.F.R. §§ 8.3 and 8.32 and UFAS § 4.3.

³ At least one (1) accessible route complying with UFAS § 4.3 shall be provided within the boundary of the site from public transportation stops, accessible parking spaces, passenger loading zones, if provided, and public streets or sidewalks to an accessible building entrance. See UFAS §§ 4.1.1(1); 4.3. In addition, UFAS requires that at least one (1) accessible route complying with UFAS § 4.3 shall connect accessible building or facility entrances with all accessible spaces and elements within the building or facility. See UFAS §§ 4.1.2(1); 4.3.

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Trash Disposal Facilities –

- Provide accessible route into and through trash disposal facilities; or, provide an equally-effective accommodation such as personal trash disposal by housing staff

Laundry Facilities -

- Provide accessible route into and through common-use laundry facilities. Provide at least one (1) front loading washer and one (1) front-loading dryer in public-use laundry facilities⁴; or, provide an equally effective accommodation such as the provision of a front-loading washer and dryer in resident's unit; or, provision of laundry services at PHA's expense

Mail Delivery/Mail Boxes -

- Provide accessible route into and through mail boxes/mail facilities. Provide mailbox at lower height, upon request; or, provide equally effective accommodation such as home delivery.⁵

Apartment Entrance and Interior Doors –

- Widen doors
- Provide accessible, lever-type door hardware
- Re-hang door to lay flat against a wall when opened
- Re-hang door to swing outward instead of into the accessible space
- Add or adjust door closure speed
- Adjust door opening force required for pushing/pulling the door
- Provide lower peep holes or “telescoped” peep holes
- Provide a visual door knocker for individuals with hearing impairments
- Providing contrasting paint on doors, around doorways, at windows, baseboards and/or stairs/risers for individuals with visual impairments
- Provide ramp from accessible route to accessible entrance into unit

⁴ If laundry equipment is provided within individual dwelling units, or if separate laundry facilities serve one or more accessible dwelling units, then they shall meet the requirements of UFAS §§ 4.34.71 through 4.34.7.3.

⁵ “Cluster boxes”, common in multi-family housing developments, are routinely placed in sequential order. However, if a customer is unable to access his/her mailbox due to a disability, the customer may submit a request under the U.S. Postal Service’s “Hardship Clause” and request the relocation of the mailbox to a lower, accessible level. According to § 631.42 of the U.S. Postal Service “Postal Operations Manual”, the customer submits the “Hardship Clause” request directly to his/her postal delivery person; the delivery person then submits the request to his/her manager. The manager evaluates the individual request and takes appropriate action. If the postal service is unable to relocate the mailbox, the postal service may provide an alternate accommodation such as door delivery.

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Apartment Light Switches & Electrical Outlets -

- Lower electrical switches and/or raise electrical outlets⁶
- Provide extra electrical outlets for TDD/TTY equipment or other equipment utilized by individuals with disabilities
- Provide heavier electrical circuits to accommodate higher wattage bulbs for individuals with visual impairments
- Lower thermostat controls
- Lower circuit breakers, when located in unit

Apartment Interior -

- Provide extra electrical outlets for TDD/TTY equipment or other equipment utilized by individuals with disabilities
- Provide heavier electrical circuits to accommodate higher wattage bulbs for individuals with visual impairments
- Provide visual and audible alarms for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; and, provide visual alarms in each room of unit⁷
- Provide windows which requires five pounds or less of opening force; provide crank type opening mechanism with large levers, when feasible
- Provide accessible storage spaces, including lowering clothes rods and/or adjustable closet shelves. Accessible storage spaces shall comply with UFAS § 4.25; Fig. 38

Apartment Kitchens⁸ -

- Lower kitchen sink
- Provide lever type hardware on kitchen faucet
- Provide accessible kitchen cabinets; provide accessible hardware on kitchen cabinets
- Provide accessible kitchen counters and work space

If the following items are provided to non-disabled residents in a development:

- Provide accessible refrigerators. See UFAS § 4.34.6.8
- Provide accessible ovens. See UFAS § 4.34.6.7
- Provide accessible dishwashers. See UFAS § 4.34.6.9

⁶ The highest operable part of all controls, dispensers, receptacles, and other operable equipment shall be placed within at least one of the reach ranges specified in §§ 4.2.5 and 4.2.6. Except where the use of special equipment dictates otherwise, electrical and communications system receptacles on walls shall be mounted no less than 15" above the finish floor. See UFAS § 4.27.3

⁷ If emergency warning systems are provided, they shall include both audible alarms complying with UFAS § 4.28.2 and visual alarms complying with UFAS § 4.28.3. See UFAS § 4.1.2 (13)

⁸ Accessible or adaptable kitchens and their components shall be on an accessible route and shall comply with the requirements of UFAS § 4.34.6. However, the PHA will not be required to make all elements of the kitchen accessible, unless requested by the resident with a disability. Rather, the resident may request specific accessible kitchen elements.

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Apartment Bathrooms⁹ -

- Provide wider door
- Provide lever type hardware on lavatory faucet
- Lower wash basin
- Lower mirror
- Provide accessible toilet
- Relocate toilet paper dispenser
- Provide grab bars at toilet
- Provide grab bars at bathtub and/or shower
- Provide seat in bathtub or shower
- Provide hand-held shower device
- Relocate bathtub and/or shower controls
- Provide roll-in shower or shower/bathtub seat

Examples of Non-structural Reasonable Accommodations

- Offering documents in accessible formats (e.g., large type, computer disk or Braille) and in plain language.
- Permitting rent payments and required communications to be mailed rather than delivered in person.
- Providing another housing offer if an applicant, resident or program participant can demonstrate good cause that the rejection of the initial housing offer, for example, was because of the disability of an applicant, resident or program participant's household member.
- Providing auxiliary aids, such as pencil and paper for those with speech difficulties, Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD), Assisted Listening Device (ALD), a qualified sign language interpreter, or a reader, when necessary for effective communication between MDPHA and an applicant, resident or program participant.
- Sending mail or making phone calls to a person designated as a contact person by the person with disabilities.
- Allowing the use of assistive animals.
- Allowing a live-in aide to reside in an appropriately-sized dwelling unit.
- Permitting an outside agency or family member to assist an applicant, resident or program participant in meeting screening criteria or meeting essential lease obligations.

⁹ Accessible or adaptable bathrooms shall be on an accessible route and shall comply with UFAS § 4.34.5. However, the PHA will not be required to make all elements of the bathroom accessible, unless requested by the resident with a disability. Rather, the resident may request specific accessible bathroom elements.