

**RESIDENT SELECTION CRITERIA**  
**(Available at the Rental Office)**  
**CYPRESS GARDENS**

The purpose of this document is to establish fair, equitable, and easily understood practices for accepting and rejecting applicants for occupancy in **Cypress Gardens**. These criteria are in compliance with requirements of the Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program and the Tax Credit Allocation Committee of the State of California,

**POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION**

With respect to the treatment of applicants, the Management Agent will not discriminate against any individual or family because of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin or ancestry, religion, sex, sexual preference, gender identity, age, disability, handicap, military status, source of income, marital status or presence of children in a household, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or AIDS-related conditions (ARC), or any other arbitrary basis. No criteria will be applied or information considered pertaining to attributes of behavior that may be imputed by some to a particular group or category. All criteria shall be applied equitably and all information considered on an applicant shall be related solely to the attributes and behavior of individual members of the household as they may affect residency.

**APPLICATION PROCESSING PROCEDURES**

A waiting list will be established by the Property (either by a lottery process or in the order applications are received) in accordance with the Marketing Plan.

The waiting lists will track applicant name and contact information, household size, household income or AMI (Area Median Income), status of application, regulatory agency preferences, and any other information deemed necessary for the property or specified in regulatory agency requirements.

Applicants will be invited for an interview in the order of the waiting list and in accordance to regulatory agency preference (if any). However, eligible applicants will be offered an apartment in the order in which their applications have been approved by our Compliance Department and readiness to move-in. In other words, on a first qualified, first offered basis.

If an applicant is eligible for tenancy, but no appropriately size or AMI designation is available, they will be kept on the wait list in their original position.

Agent will respect the bedroom size option chosen by the applicant unless such choice is contrary to the development's occupancy standards. Persons with a disability that require and adaptable or accessible unit may select a standard unit or an accessible unit, at their discretion.

Periodically, letters will be sent to applicants to update their information and confirm they remain interested in applying for a unit. Failure to respond to the Agent's notice to contact the project will result in removal from the waiting list. It is the obligation of the applicant to notify management of any changes to their address or phone number.

**OCCUPANCY GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines are set with regard to number of occupants per dwelling unit. These guidelines are set to avoid overcrowding or underutilization of limited affordable housing opportunities. Section 8305 (b) of the Uniform Multifamily Regulations states that the minimum number of persons in household per the chart below. However, it also states that a sponsor may assign tenant households to units of sizes other than those indicated as appropriate if the Sponsor reasonably determines that special circumstances warrant such an assignment and the reasons are documented in the tenant's file.

Units will be occupied in accordance with the following standards:

No. Bedrooms	Minimum	Maximum
1	1	3
2	3	5

These guidelines may also be waived to:

- Conform to Local, State and Federal law regarding Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.
- Accommodate a household member with a disabling or medical condition.

A household whose composition no longer meets the above guidelines, may be required to move to the next available unit of the appropriate size, if available.

Every household member regardless of age is to be counted as a person. This includes household members in the military or in school; anyone that will occupy the unit during the upcoming 12 months. In accordance with the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program and the Tax Credit Allocation Committee of the State of California, unborn children will be counted for family size in determining annual income.

There are 21 units designed specifically for the mobility, sight and hearing impaired.

Wherever possible, we will offer an accessible unit to an eligible individual whose disability requires the accessibility features of the particular unit; when offering an accessible rental unit to applicants without disabilities, we will require such applicants to agree to move to a non-accessible unit when the accessible unit is needed by a disabled household.

**UNIT MIX:**

Number of Units	Maximum Tenant Income (Expressed as AMI)	Rents*
One Bedrooms (110 units)	50%	32% of adjusted income
Two Bedrooms (14 units)	50%	32% of adjusted income
Two Bedrooms – Staff Unit (1 unit)	N/A	N/A

\*Approximate rental rates based upon current income limits published by the U. S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development. Rental rates subject to change.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Cypress Gardens has a minimum age restriction of 55 years old. All prospective household members must be age 55 years and older.

MAXIMUM INCOME limits will be adjusted as published by HUD yearly to reflect changes in the Area Median Income. Applicant households whose annual income exceeds the limits published at the time of move in will not be eligible for occupancy. Gross annual income as defined by HUD includes the gross amount (before deductions for taxes, insurance, etc.) of income, including income from assets and all anticipated income being received by all household members in accordance to the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.

Number of Household Members	Maximum Income for units at 50% AMI
1 person	46,550
2 person	53,200
3 person	59,850
4 person	66,500
5 person	71,850

The applicant and all household members 18 and older must supply a government-issued photo I.D., birth certificates for all minors, and sufficient information to enable the housing provider to request and receive written third-party verification from all income sources including, but not limited to: a) Employment; b) Public Assistance programs; c) Savings and Checking accounts; d) Pensions; e) Disability income; f) All assets including property, stocks, bonds, annuities, retirement accounts, etc.

Households comprised entirely of full-time students must meet special eligibility requirements to live in a Tax Credit unit in accordance to Section 42 or the IRS.

The applicants' landlord references must verify a history of responsible occupancy, behavior, and conduct. Current landlord references will be requested along with a third party unlawful detainer search. All previous landlords during the past two years will also be contacted. Landlord references will help to determine whether or not the applicant has a good rent paying history, whether or not there have been any disturbing behavior patterns including repeated lease violations, destruction of property, etc. Any documented behavior which would constitute a material violation of the standard lease to be used at this location may be considered grounds for ineligibility.

A credit reference and background check will be required for all household members age 18 or older. A poor credit history may be grounds to deem an applicant ineligible for housing. Applicants will have the option to explain mitigating circumstances and/or include supplemental information with their application to explain any issues such as foreclosure, bankruptcy and negative credit.

Any of the following circumstances may be defined as Poor Credit History or grounds for denial:

- A bankruptcy (within the last seven years).
- An Unlawful Detainer and/or judgment against an applicant obtained by the current or any previous landlord.
- An unmet obligation owed to previous landlord.
- The applicant must have made timely payments of last year's rental payments.

A check will be made of criminal conviction records for the past seven years for all adult Applicants of the household. Reports will be obtained from local and/or state records and may also include local Police records. If the Applicant has resided in a state other than California and has a past felony conviction, a report will be required from that state or federal organization. Generally, public records of this sort are only available for the past seven (7) years. However, if information becomes known during the screening process regarding criminal activity that happened before the past seven year period which could impact the Applicant household's eligibility to live at the property, the Management Agent reserves the right to consider this information as well. . Serious felony offenses and/or continued and ongoing criminal activity will be grounds for rejection if such offenses involve physical violence to persons or property, domestic violence, sexual abuse, the manufacture or sale narcotics, possession of an illegal weapon, breaking and entering, burglary or drug related criminal offenses. The nature, severity and recency of such offenses and/or ongoing criminal activity will be considered when reviewing the Applicant and only those potentially impacting the health, safety, security or right to peaceful enjoyment of the property of and by other residents, visitors or employees will be considered. Additionally, applicants may be rejected due to:

- A history of violence or abuse (physical or verbal), in which the applicant was determined to be the antagonist.
- A household in which any member is currently engaged in illegal use of drugs or for which the owner has reasonable cause to believe that a member's illegal use or pattern of use of a drug may interfere with the health, safety, security, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the property of and by other residents, visitors or employees.
- Any household member, if there is reasonable cause to believe that a member's behavior, from abuse or pattern of abuse of alcohol, may interfere with the health, safety, security or right to peaceful enjoyment of the property of and by other residents, visitors or employees.

Consideration may be granted to Applicants with past nonviolent criminal records occurring seven or more years in the past with no further criminal record. Applicants will be provided the criminal background record and provided an opportunity to respond and to provide evidence of mitigating factors.

Applicants may be deemed ineligible for the following reasons:

- Failure to present all members of the applicants' household at the scheduled interview(s).
- Failure of any household member to behave in an *orderly, non violent, non combative* manner during an interview or while on the property.
- Falsification of any information provided on an application.
- Poor Credit History, landlord history and/or criminal background check.
- Household income exceeds the set Income Limits.
- Household income does not meet the Minimum Income required to ensure ability to pay rent.
- Household size does not fit the Occupancy Standard
- Failure to provide requested information and proof of income and assets.

Reasonable Accommodations will be made to meet the needs of disabled applicants.

## **APPEALS PROCEDURES**

If an applicant household is deemed ineligible for occupancy, they will be notified in writing of the determination, and the notification will include the reasons for the determination. All applicants who are determined to be ineligible will also be notified of their right to appeal the determination. This appeal is preferred in writing but verbal appeals will also be accepted. The written appeal must be received within 14 days from the date that the determination letter was mailed. If the applicant(s) does not exercise their appeal right in writing and within the required period, the applicant(s) will be ineligible for housing and their application removed from the processing list as well as from the waiting list.

Applicants who appeal the initial decision of ineligibility will meet with the Property Representative. The applicant may bring to this meeting any documentation, evidence, or additional information. The Property Representative will also confer with staff and review the applicant's file in its entirety. If the appeal fails, a Regional Manager who had no involvement in making the original decision of ineligibility will review. The Owner's Representative will make a decision based on the merits of all information reviewed. A written decision will be placed in the applicants file. All decisions on appeals will be made within 20 days from the appeals meeting date.

## **RESIDENT ACCEPTANCE**

Applicants will be offered only one apartment based upon the time of their approval and readiness to move. They will be offered the first appropriately sized unit for the household's income (AMI). All offers of units will be made in writing.

If an applicant has been unable to accept a unit due to a disability or mitigating circumstances (i.e. medical reasons), the applicant shall retain his/her position on the waiting list and will be referred to JSCO's "[Reasonable Accommodation Policy – Notice to All Applicants and Residents](#)".

Detailed records of all units offered and refused will be kept by the Management Agent.