



New England

JAN 11 2013

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

Office of Public Housing  
Boston Hub  
Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building  
10 Causeway Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02222-1092

Matthew C. Dyer  
Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Inc.  
37 Park Street, Suite 401  
P.O. Box 398  
Lewiston, Maine 04243-0398

Dear Mr. Dyer,

This is in response to your letter on December 4, 2012 regarding the denial of two Housing Choice Vouchers by the Lewiston Housing Authority (LHA) because of past debts owed to a Public Housing Authority. More specifically, you asked for clarification on this issue since Maine law sets the statute of limitation for collecting past debts owed to a PHA at six years.

The Office of General Counsel provided the following clarification. In the Section 8 program, the PHA cannot deny admission based upon a debt owing to the PHA if the debt is barred by the statute of limitations. Since the statute of limitations in Maine for this type of debt is 6 years, the 11 year old debt cannot be used to deny admission. There is no similar rule in Public Housing. The PHA is permitted to deny admission to the Public Housing program if its administrative plan authorizes it to do so.

The LHA has been made aware of the above mentioned clarification. Our office recommends that you contact the LHA to have them complete a secondary review of your client's application for a Housing Choice Voucher based on the guidance above.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Martin, Portfolio Management Specialist, at (617) 994-8410.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Howard Schindler".

Howard Schindler  
Division Director

cc: Jim Dowling