

Housing Authority: Ashland

Fiscal Year End (FYE): 9/30/18
 Date AUP Conducted: 3/26/19
 Executive Director: Candace Doherty
 CPA: Gary L. DePace, CPA PC
 CPA Phone: (413) 267-5223

A. Rent Collection / Tenant Accounts Receivable / Account Write-Offs
 Number of Category Exceptions: 0 Category Rating: No Findings

A. Rent Collection – Walk-through of sample (Small - 3, Med - 5, Large - 7, Very Large - 9) of individual rent receipts to ensure all the following steps are being executed.	No Exception Found
1. Log of rent collected is complete, accurate and includes all necessary information.	NE
2. Post-dated checks for current amount due is not accepted payment by LHA.	NE
3. Trace amounts from receipt log to deposit slip for bank. Cash is deposited daily per DHCD guidelines (per Accounting Manual Sec. 8, p. 3). Except IF: LHA has only one administrative employee who deposits cash at least weekly.	NE
4. Reconcile tenant ledger with receipt log, bank deposit and General Ledger.	NE
5. What is on General Ledger matches bank statement (bank reconciliation) and Operating Statement and Balance Sheet (51-1 and 51-2 respectively).	NE
B. Rent Collection – Segregation of Duties	No Exception Found
1. Document and evaluate internal controls and segregation of duties for steps 1 to 5 above. For LHAs with only one administrative employee: if sufficient internal controls and segregation of duties are not in place, there are mitigating controls in place, such as reporting the frequency/amount of credit adjustments to the board or fee accountant.	NE
C. Rent Collection – Tenant Accounts Receivables (TAR)	No Exception Found
1. Aging of Tenant Accounts Receivable is matched to the General Ledger and to the Balance Sheet TAR (51-2).	NE
2. Draw a sample of uncollected TAR accounts (Small - 3, Med - 5, Large - 7, Very Large - 9). Rent Collection is in compliance with LHA rent collection policy (per Contract for Financial Assistance (CFA) and Management Plan IIIC).	NE
3. Allowance for Doubtful Accounts is determined in accordance with GAAP and LHA has evaluated estimate on annual basis. Reasonable allowance based on historical data. Repayment Agreements reconcile to the Balance Sheet/Operating Statements and are in accordance with DHCD policy.	NE
D. Account Write-Offs – Walk-through uncollected rent that was written-off. If no write-offs can be found, please select N/A option from drop down for both steps 1 and 2.	No Exception Found
1. Obtain detail of write-offs and verify that write-offs are in accordance with DHCD policy.	NE
2. Documentation of Board approval to write-off account (board approval of write-off required per budget guidelines for Acct #4570 - Collection Loss).	NE

Exceptions Noted: None

Internal Control Recommendation: None

Authority's Response: N/A

B. Payroll/Fringe Benefits	
Number of Category Exceptions: 1	Category Rating: Operational Guidance
A. Wage Reconciliation	Exception Found
<p>1. Verify analytically (not to exact amount) that FYE-end wages gross payroll reported on the LHA's General Ledger for all programs and all employees matches actual wage amounts reported on Forms 941 and WR-1 (state and federal filings).</p>	NE
<p>2. Look at DHCD-approved budget <i>Schedule of All Salaries and Positions "Report"</i> in HAFIS and identify five highest paid salaries from all funding sources. Verify analytically (within % ANUEL increase for that year - exclude overtime in calculation for maintenance employees) that it matches the amount reported at FYE on the LHA's Top 5 Compensation Form (LHA should have a copy on file). Verify the amount reported on the Top 5 Compensation Form matches <u>exactly</u> the amount reported on reconciled Form 941 and the corresponding state online submission (mass.gov/lwd/unemployment-insur/employers/).</p>	E
<p>3. LHA is in possession of DHCD-approved executive contract signed by the LHA, Executive Director and DHCD. If LHA can show that currently being processed by DHCD and was not returned to the LHA for failing to meet DCHD's requirements, LHA can produce the last DHCD-approved executive contract signed by the LHA, Executive Director and DHCD.</p>	NE
B. Select a Single Pay Period:	No Exception Found
<p>1. Trace timesheets/timcards to the payroll register.</p>	NE
<p>2. Test for completeness and accuracy.</p>	NE
<p>3. Proper controls and approvals are in place, i.e. employees sign timesheets, the Executive Director signs off on employee timesheets, and the Executive Director maintains a timesheet.</p>	NE
C. Obtain a compensated absences liability schedule:	No Exception Found
<p>1. Test for consistency with personnel policy (personnel policy required per Contract for Financial Assistance (CFA) and Management Plan IIa2) and reconcile to Balance Sheet (51-2) and General Ledger. If AUP conducted after 9/30/17, personnel policy includes (1) the limits on the amount of vacation and sick leave that will be accrued each year, and when and how such leave will be accrued; (2) a limit on the amount of accrued vacation that may be carried over from year to year, and; (3) a cap on the payout for accrued and unused sick leave at the end of employment per PHN 2017-14. Verify analytically future liabilities for employee benefits (particularly GASB 45 and GASB 68) are properly reflected on Operating Statement (51-1) and Balance Sheet (51-2). If GASB 68 actuarial reports were not received by the LHA in time for year-end financial statements, it is OK for LHA to report last year's GASB 68 numbers.</p>	NE
<p>2. Proper controls and approvals are in place, i.e. Executive Director approves employee compensated absences.</p>	NE
<p>3. Compensated absences should be tracked apart from the timesheets, and verification with timesheets should be performed.</p>	NE
<p>4. Accrued and Accumulated leave time matches. Time is accruing as it should.</p>	NE
Exceptions Noted:	<p>A.2.) The Firm notes that the Authority's Top 5 Compensation Form understates the amount that was paid to employees during the fiscal year, as the amounts were pulled from a payroll summary using dates that were behind by one week.</p>
Internal Control Recommendation:	<p>A.2.) The Firm recommends that when filing out the Top 5 Form, the Authority use the payroll reports from the period 10/1 to 9/30 in order to capture pay date, rather than earned date of employee compensation. If done correctly, the Top 5 form should reconcile exactly to the amounts submitted to MassQuest for the year.</p>
Authority's Response:	<p>The Housing Authority did submit the salary based on the date of work and not the check date and therefore the 1 week discrepancy is noted. The detail for which date to use was not clear and was provided by the payroll company (paychex). This detail will be clarified and followed for future submissions.</p>

C. Accounts Payable/Disbursements	
Number of Category Exceptions: 1	Category Rating: Operational Guidance
A. Select a sample (Small - 3, Med - 5, Large - 7, Very Large - 9) of operating and capital expenditures (at least 1 of each type if have). 1. Approval and Segregation of Duties 2. Accuracy 3. Supporting Documentation 4. Allowability 5. Allocation 6. Classification	No Exception Found NE NE NE NE NE NE
C. Select a sample (Small - 6, Med - 10, Large - 14, Very Large - 18) of credit card/debit card statements. If no credit/debit expenditures can be found, please select N/A option from drop down for all steps 1 to 8. 1. Approval and Segregation of Duties 2. Accuracy 3. Supporting Documentation (CPAs: include date, description of charge and amount of transaction for each purchase missing documentation below) 4. Allowability 5. Allocation 6. Classification 7. No Sales Tax Paid 8. Card is in Housing Authority name; not Executive Director (or any other staff member) name.	No Exception Found NE NE NE NE NE NE NE
D. Select a sample (Small - 3, Med - 5, Large - 7, Very Large - 9) of employee reimbursements (include at least one travel reimbursement). 1. Approval and Segregation of Duties 2. Accuracy 3. Supporting Documentation 4. Allowability 5. Allocation 6. Classification	Exception Found NE NE NE NE NE E
Exceptions Noted:	D.6.) The Firm notes that a reimbursement of \$29.79 for gas for the Authority's equipment was charged to account 4150 (travel), rather than account 4420 (maintenance materials).
Internal Control Recommendation:	D.6.) The Firm recommends that the nature of each individual purchase, especially those submitted by employees for reimbursement, be carefully reviewed in order to ensure that the expenses are charged to the appropriate accounts.
Authority's Response:	This accounting was a very minor oversight. The allocation was for the gas reimbursement for the Housing Authority Toro plow for a snow storm. The Housing Authority does not have a credit card and the need for the gas was imperative. The account will be corrected accordingly for the \$29.75 and the Housing Authority will clarify the use on the receipt.

D. Inventory (Fixed Assets)	
Number of Category Exceptions: 0	Category Rating: No Findings
A. Obtain a copy of the depreciation schedules/fixed asset listing:	No Exception Found
1. Inventory listing includes both capitalized and non-capitalized items (such as refrigerators, stoves, community room equipment, office equipment, etc.) of \$1,000 or more. It also includes all necessary information, including a tag with an LHA-assigned number for all assets of \$1,000 or more (and all refrigerators and stoves of any value).	NE
2. Depreciation schedule/fixed asset listing includes all relevant assets of \$5,000 or more. It also includes all necessary information to sufficiently identify an asset. For vehicles, that includes the make/model/year and for modernization jobs the Fish number.	NE
3. Items on depreciation schedule/fixed asset listing are being accurately depreciated.	NE
4. Reconcile depreciation schedule/fixed asset listing to Form 51-1 (Operating Statement) and General Ledger and evaluate for completeness and sufficiency of detail.	NE
5. Verify analytically that items listed still exist and are in possession of LHA.	NE
6. Assets are appropriately allocated between Federal and State on General Ledger, Operating Statement (51-1), and depreciated according to which funds were used for purchase.	NE
B. Capitalization Policy	No Exception Found
1. Verify capitalization policy is within state established limits (per Accounting Manual, Sec. 16, p.3).	NE
C. Vehicles	No Exception Found
1. Confirm vehicles are listed on fixed asset listing, and trace vehicles listing to insurance policies.	NE
Exceptions Noted:	None
Internal Control Recommendation:	None
Authority's Response:	N/A

Housing Authority: Ashland	
E. Procurement/Public Bidding for Goods and Services	
Number of Category Exceptions: 1	Category Rating: Operational Guidance
<p>For A to C below, examine the cash disbursements journal (or check register) as well as the contract register and identify purchases of goods and services during the year that should have been competitively procured. From these purchases that should have been competitively procured, select a sample (Small - 3, Med - 5, Large - 7, Very Large - 9) of known or possible procurements valuing \$10,000 or more; if possible when selecting the sample, include at least one procurement valuing \$10,000 to \$35,000 and one procurement valuing \$35,000 or more (for goods and services for MGL c. 30B only). If any in the sample were not competitively procured, enter as an exception in A. For sampled purchases that went through procurement, follow procedures under B or C below depending on the size of the procurement.</p>	
A. Competitive Procurement When Required	No Exception Found
1. Verify that sampled purchases for goods and services that should have been competitively procured as defined per MGL c. 30B were competitively procured.	NE
B. Known procurements valuing (pre 11/7/16 - \$10,000 up to \$35,000 OR post 11/7/16 \$10,000 up to and including \$50,000) (for goods and services for MGL c. 30B only). If no procurement can be found valuing \$10,000 up to \$35,000, please select N/A option from drop down for each step 1 - 7 below.	Not Applicable
1. (pre 11/7/16) Proper selection based on MGL c.30B s.5 IFB requirements/(post 11/7/16) Proper selection based on MGL c.30B s.5 solicitation of quotes requirements.	N/A
2. (pre 11/7/16) Documentation of solicitation of at least three oral or written quotes/(post 11/7/16) Documentation of a written purchase description with solicitation of <u>written</u> quotes from at least three persons.	N/A
3. Contract is DHCD-approved template or developed by LHA (not a vendor contract).	N/A
4. Contract was for not more than 3 years unless majority board vote allowed it to be longer.	N/A
5. Board vote is documented approving individual contract, or a board vote to delegate authority over certain contracts (by dollar threshold or other criteria) to an LHA staff member, usually Executive Director.	N/A
6. Contract did not go through automatic renewals unless renewals were part of the original procurement.	N/A
7. LHA Procurement Policy exists (per Accounting Manual Sec. 16, p.2) and is compliant with MGL c. 30B elements mentioned in 1 to 6 above.	N/A
C. Known procurements valuing (pre 11/7/16 - \$35,000 or more OR post 11/7/16 more than \$50,000) (for goods and services for MGL c. 30B only). If no procurement can be found in this value range, please select N/A option from drop down for each step 1 - 8 below.	Not Applicable
1. Proper selection based on MGL c.30B s.5 IFB requirements or MGL c.30B s.6 RFP requirements. (post 11/7/16 only: If using MGL C.30B s.6 RFP requirements, LHA must have a Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) conduct the procurement under c.30B s.6.)	N/A
2. (pre 11/7/16) Documentation of Newspaper advertisement two week prior to bidding process/(post 11/7/16) Documentation of Newspaper advertisement, LHA's Office and COMMBUYS two weeks prior to bidding process.	N/A
3. If contract was for over \$100K, it was advertised in the Goods & Services Bulletin.	N/A
4. If IFB, contract award went to lowest bidder. If RFP, contract went to lowest bidder or letter explaining why went with another bidder.	N/A
5. Contract is DHCD-approved template or developed by LHA (not a vendor contract).	N/A
6. Board vote is documented approving individual contract, or a board vote to delegate authority over certain contracts (by dollar threshold or other criteria) to an LHA staff member, usually Executive Director.	N/A
7. Contract did not go through automatic renewals unless renewals were part of the original procurement.	N/A
8. LHA Procurement Policy exists (Accounting Manual Sec. 16, p.2) and is compliant with MGL c. 30B elements mentioned in 1 to 7 above.	N/A
D. Obtain a copy of the contract register and verify:	Exception Found
1. Contract register exists and includes all modernization as well as goods and services contracts (per Accounting Manual, Sec. 6, p.12)/PHN 2017-14.	E
2. For each contract, it includes the following information: contractor, description, active/inactive, start date, end date, extensions available, contract award amount, change orders amount, contract expenditures to date and remaining value.	E
3. Evaluate for completeness by analyzing the cash disbursements journal against the contract register.	E
Exceptions Noted:	D.) The Firm notes that the Authority does maintain a contract register, however, it does not yet include modernization contracts and does not list all of the required information for each contract.
Internal Control Recommendation:	D.) The Firm recommends that the Authority update its contract register to include modernization contracts, and to add columns for each of the following details: contractor name, description of the goods or services provided, whether the contract is active or inactive, start date, end date, extensions available, the dollar value the contract was awarded for, amount added for change orders, contract expenditures to date, and the remaining value of the contract.
Authority's Response:	The housing authority does keep a contract register and is in the process of its annual update. The information for the modernization contractors is obtained and kept by either the House Doctor Designer designated by DHCD or the RCAT. At the end of the project the binders are provided to the housing authority and kept on file. The contractors are not used on a regular basis and again are procured by DHCD regulation by entities outside of the Housing Authority. All of this information is also kept in the CPS and CIMS system as required by DHCD.

F. Cash Management and Investment Practices

Number of Category Exceptions: 0 Category Rating: No Findings

A. Pull a mid-year and year-end bank statements:		No Exception Found
1. Test the monthly bank reconciliation to ensure that the following two match: General Ledger and bank statements (exclude deposits of rent collected as this was covered earlier).		NE
2. Checks that have been issued and marked on General Ledger but have not been cashed (not on bank statement), known as checks in transit are identified as a part of the reconciliation process.		NE
B. Bank and Investment Accounts		No Exception Found
1. Verify that banking and investment accounts are properly insured or collateralized (per Accounting Manual Sec. 16, p.7)		NE
Exceptions Noted:	None	
Internal Control Recommendation:	None	
Authority's Response:	N/A	

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G. Operating Subsidy Number of Category Exceptions: 0 Category Rating: No Findings	
A. Obtain copy of DHCD-approved budget exemptions. If no DHCD-approved exemptions, please select N/A option from drop down for step 1 below. 1. Compare DHCD-approved budget exemptions for direct reimbursement (as found in the ANUEL & Subsidy Worksheet - Section 8) to LHA record of actual expenses to the General Ledger.	No Exception Found NE
B. Revenue Reconciliation 1. Reconcile revenue to the General Ledger. Compare revenue reported in Accounts #3110, #3190, #3610 and #3690 in the Operating Statement (51-1) to the General Ledger to the amounts reported in the ANUEL & Subsidy Worksheet.	No Exception Found NE
C. Utility Reconciliation 1. Reconcile utilities to the General Ledger. Compare utilities reported in Account #4300 on the Operating Statement (51-1) to the General Ledger to the amounts reported in the ANUEL & Subsidy Worksheet.	No Exception Found NE
Exceptions Noted:	<i>None</i>
Internal Control Recommendation:	<i>None</i>
Authority's Response:	<i>N/A</i>

Housing Authority: Ashland	
H. Annual Rent Calculation and Compliance	
Number of Category Exceptions: 3	Category Rating: Corrective Action
To conduct A through D below, select a sample (Small LHA - 5, Medium LHA - 10, Large or Very Large LHA - 15) of tenant files (from programs 200, 667, 705); if the LHA has multiple property managers, at least one file should be selected per manager. Conduct A to C and E, if have MRVP, sample 10% (min:1 max:15) of leased MRVP units.	
A. Obtain the rent roll and HAP roll:	No Exception Found
1. Verify analytically the completeness of the resident population. (Rent roll and HAP roll support what is reported on Operating Statement Form 51-1).	NE
B. Timeliness of Annual Rent Calculation	Exception Found
1. Verify timeliness of annual rent redetermination (occurs one year from move-in date or last annual recertification). Except IF: LHA can produce DHCD waiver for Chapter 667 annual rent redetermination requirement and has done rent redetermination once within 2 years of move-in date or last annual recertification).	E
C. Accuracy of Rent Calculation	Exception Found
1. Test rent calculation for proper verification of income, expenses and deductions.	NE
2. Verify family composition for allowance purposes.	NE
3. Documentation of income, exclusions from income, and deductions.	E
D. Timeliness of Notifications Regarding Rent Changes	Exception Found
1. Verify notification date of rent redetermination sent at least 60 days prior to effective date (see 760 CMR 6.04 (4)(b)).	NE
2. Verify Notice of Rent Change sent no less than 14 days prior to effective date (see 760 CMR 6.04 (4)(e)).	E
3. Verify timeliness and proper execution of Lease Addendum (see 760 CMR 6.06 (5)(q)).	NE
E. MRVP Documentation (starting with AUPs conducted after 7/31/17)	Not Applicable
1. MRVP file has Certificate of Fitness (COF).	N/A
2. MRVP file has Letter of Compliance for Lead Paint if child <6 years old and building built prior to 1978 with no new construction permit.	N/A
3. MRVP file has Proof of Ownership which is either 1. Deed/Online Printout from Registry of Deeds or 2. Proof of Insurance or 3. Tax Documents.	N/A
4. MRVP file has W9.	N/A
Exceptions Noted:	B.1.) The Firm notes that one of the sampled rent redeterminations was completed more than 12 months after the tenant's prior redetermination. C.3.) The Firm notes that documentation was not sufficient for income provided by one tenant's family. The only documentation was an unnotarized letter from the family. D.2.) The Firm notes that not all Notices of Rent Change were sent out at least 14 days prior to the effective dates.
Internal Control Recommendation:	B.1.) The Firm recommends that the Authority begin the rent redetermination process early enough to allot time for the effective date of the latest lease to be no more than 12 months after the effective date of the prior lease. C.3.) The Firm recommends that the Authority request additional proof behind statements made by tenants, such as tax documents, bank statements, or notarized letters. D.2.) The Firm recommends that the Authority ensure that all Notices of Rent Change are sent out at least 14 days prior to the effective date. If the Notice is delayed because of the tenant's inability to provide information in a timely manner, documentation of the Authority's efforts to contact the tenant in order to retrieve that information should be kept on file.
Authority's Response:	During the time of review for the files audited, the residents did not respond to the recertification requests. Our administration, and I as Executive Director were just commencing the Management of the Ashland Housing Authority. Prior to our management and during the time in review there was not a Director and no regular office oversight. It was very difficult to get the residents to comply and the timeframe for recert. had passed prior to our administration stepping in to manage. Correspondence with residents is always kept in the files and documented by our administrative staff.