

# Board Selection Criteria

## Sample

The U.S. Housing Act of 1937 provides financial and technical assistance for public housing agencies or housing authorities, created pursuant to State law, to develop, own, and operate public housing. While the laws vary from State to State, all provide for the creation of a Board of Commissioners that oversee and make policy for the individual housing authorities. State law typically provides the Chief Executive Officer of the unit of local government, most often the Mayor, with the authority to appoint the members of the board. Board members can come from all walks of life, including from different income levels and professions.

The board members will be overseeing and making policy for a housing authority that will be receiving substantial sums of money in the form of grants from the Federal government. The Chief Executive Officer must perform due diligence in the appointment of these individuals. The housing authority in any community is a vital affordable housing resource. Board candidates must fully understand that they are caretakers of the authority's and taxpayer's assets, including financial, physical, and other assets, and must therefore perform their duties diligently.

The Chief Executive Officer should give priority consideration to board candidates that have applicable business, finance, housing, community development, and social program experience. Factors to consider in the appointment review process:

1. Be a resident of the same locality as the housing authority for a period of at least one year.
2. Be committed to:
  - a. Providing decent, safe and sanitary housing for low income families
  - b. Understanding and following all housing authority Bylaws
  - c. Ensuring that the housing authority follows Federal, State, and local requirements
  - d. Understanding and accepting the roles and responsibilities of being a
  - e. Commissioner
  - f. Learning about the operations of the housing authority and attending
  - g. Commissioner and other training classes.
  - h. Complying with the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the housing authority's Code of Conduct and Ethical
  - i. Standards once selected (avoid all real and perceived conflicts of interest)
3. Have no known criminal record.
4. Be willing to attend all board meetings, including special meetings.
5. The preparation required to be fully engaged in meetings, including reading and understanding all background materials sent prior to any board or special meeting.
6. Understand the importance of the Authority's role in the community housing market.