



## Tenant Selection Policy

To consider Cornerstone at Lacey II your home, this is the Selection Criteria you must meet:

### **IDENTIFY AND AGE VERIFICATION**

All applicants must be at least 18 years of age. A copy of Birth Certificate will be required for all occupants. Verification of citizenship or immigration status may be requested.

### **HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION / UNIT ELIGIBILITY MUST FALL INTO THESE CATEGORIES**

#### **OCCUPANCY GUIDELINES**

APARTMENT SIZE	MINIMUM OCCUPANTS	MAXIMUM OCCUPANTS
ONE BEDROOM	ONE	TWO
TWO BEDROOM	TWO	FOUR
THREE BEDROOM	THREE	SIX

Frequently asked question: Can 1 person have a 2 bedroom apt? No. The exception is the special needs population.

**HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS INCLUDE:** All persons who consider the apartment their primary residence. For example: children under joint custody must reside in the apartment at least 50% of the time or children away in foster care who will be returning to the household, members temporarily in the hospital or nursing home, unborn children, children being adopted or a future spouse or roommate.

**YOUR ANNUAL INCOME MUST** fall within the State established -HUD income levels. The annual income is the full amount, (GROSS), before any payroll deductions for all adults **NOT** the take home pay or net income. Adults are persons over the age of 18 years.

**ANNUAL INCOME** is inclusive and not limited to: employment, self-employment, tips, commissions, income from assets, Social Security and other benefits, payments in lieu of earnings, i.e., unemployment, disability compensation, worker's compensation and severance pay., child support/alimony, gifts, military pay, student financial assistance, etc.

If your annual income is lower than the required minimum income level for the specific number of household members for the specific bedroom size; you will not be eligible for an apartment. The only time this doesn't apply is if you can prove that you paid higher rent in the previous 12 months.

If your annual income exceeds the maximum income requirements for the specific number of Household members and bedroom size, you will not be eligible for an apartment.

### **STUDENT STATUS**

As a LIHTC (Low Income Housing Tax Credit) community, student status in the household is an important matter for tax compliance. Due to this status, generally households made up entirely of **FULL TIME** students **DO NOT QUALIFY**. Student Status exceptions are as follows:

1. All adults are married and ENTITLED TO file a joint tax return.
2. All adult members are single parents with minor children, the adult is not a dependent of any third party, and the children are only claimed by a parent.
3. The household includes a member who receives assistance under Title IV Welfare

(TANF).

4. The household includes a member who formerly received foster care assistance.
5. The household contains a member, who gets assistance under the Job Training Partnership Act, (JTPA) or under other similar, Federal, State or local laws.

This information must be verified to ensure household qualifications.

#### **CREDIT AND CRIMINAL SCREENING**

An application fee of \$50.00 for each applicant over the age of 18 years old must be submitted to begin the application process. This is to be paid to **Cornerstone at Lacey II** in cleared funds, i.e. Money Order, Certified Bank/Cashiers Check will be accepted. **NO CASH or PERSONAL CHECKS.**

The applications will be accepted the following way:

1. They can be delivered in person to 900 Gary Smith Way, Forked River, NJ 08731.

The applications are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Each application is stamped with the date and time of when it's received in the Leasing Office.

We use a third party credit/criminal background check company, The National Tenant Network (NTN). The NTN score must be 76 or higher to be acceptable, anything less will require a cosigner with a score of 80 or higher, along with income which is equal to 4 times the monthly rent, to accept the application.

If neither of the above requirements are met, the application will be rejected. If the applicant does not get approved and chooses to get a cosigner, they must pay an application fee of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for the cosigner.

#### **THE COSIGNER**

The cosigner's role has a financial responsibility if the lease holder falters in paying their rent. The cosigner will continue to be the cosigner for subsequent years or until the resident vacates.

If the credit report is not acceptable due to an eviction, the previous landlord will be contacted to clarify if previous eviction was financially satisfied. If it is not satisfied, the applicant will be rejected.


If the credit report is accepted, the process will continue with a long form application; detailing all income and asset requirements.

#### **CRIMINAL SCREENING**

We use a third party company, NTN, to check for credit and criminal background activity.

- Any felony criminal activity within the last year or felony conviction within the past ten years will result in an automatic rejection.
- Felony or misdemeanor arrests and/or charges for crimes against children, violent crimes, drug-related, sexual offenses or arson will also be cause for denial of an application.
- Any member of a household who is subject to a State lifetime sex offender registration requirement will result in immediate rejection.

If your application is declined due to Credit and or Criminal Screening, we will include in our written notification information how to obtain a copy of the consumer report that was used in determining the decision.

-  **Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 ("VAWA")** protects qualified tenants, participants, and applicants, and affiliated individuals, who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking from being denied housing, evicted, or terminated based on acts of such violence against them.

#### **APPLICATION DECISION**

**If An Application is Declined:** Applicants will be notified in writing of any application denial and given fourteen (14) days to respond in writing to request a meeting to discuss the rejection. All application fees are non-refundable. If your application is declined, included in the written notification you will be given the information to obtain a copy of the consumer report that was used in determining the decision.

**If An Application is Cancelled:** If for any reason you withdraw your application or notify us that you have changed your mind about renting an apartment, all application fees are non-refundable.

**Failure to Execute the Lease:** In the event that you fail to sign the Lease Agreement after application approval, all said fees and deposits are non-refundable.

### **WAIT LIST**

The Waiting List will **open** in Accordance with the Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan and will occur when there aren't any specific unit types vacant, available to rent.

The Waiting List will be **closed** once the number of units on the Waiting List reaches 3 times the number of units on the property.

\*Sandy impacted residents will be given preference during the lease up process through 90 days after Certificate of Occupancy or Temporary Certificate of Occupancy is received for the 1<sup>st</sup> building.

1. Application. Anyone who wishes to be placed on a waiting list must complete an application.
2. Receiving and recording the application. Upon receipt of an application for tenancy, the application will be recorded initialing the date and time received.
3. Data required on the wait list. The following data must be included in an application, which will be placed on the waiting list: Date/time submitted; Name of head of household; annual income level; identification of the need for an accessible unit, including the need for accessible features; unit size.
4. Selection. When a unit becomes vacant, a selection will be based on the unit size available, preferences established for the property, income-targeting policies and requirements, and screening policies. Any current Cornerstone at Lacey II Apartments resident will take precedents over the applicants listed on the waiting list over the people listed on the waiting list. Any Sandy impacted resident(s) will get priority over the current residents and also the current waiting list.
5. Confirmation. You will receive a letter from the office confirming your status on the waiting list.
6. Notification: If you have changed any data submitted on the application, which results in household and income level changes, you must reapply. Please contact us immediately so we can update your information.
7. Update: List will be updated every 6 months, with correspondence. If you do not respond to our letter, you will be removed from the waiting list.
8. \*Sandy impacted resident(s) must provide proof; such as FEMA # (inquire within for other options).

### **SANDY IMPACTED RESIDENTS PREFERENCE**

1. Priority will be given to qualified Sandy impacted resident(s) until 90 days after the project is completed (C/O or T/CO) is issued for the 1<sup>st</sup> building.
2. Through the end of the priority period, should 2 qualified applicants apply, the unit would go to the Sandy impacted resident, even if a Sandy impacted resident applies at a later date than a non-impacted resident.
3. If a Sandy impacted resident applies after a non Sandy impacted resident's application is processed and approved by HMFA, the Sandy impacted will be the next on the Waiting List.
4. If the project is fully occupied prior to the end of the priority period, but a qualified Sandy victim applies within that period, that applicant would jump to the top of the waiting list for the next available unit.
5. Residents must sign the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency FRM Certification of Sandy Displacement.

### **TRANSFER POLICY**

1. Current residents that request, in a form of a letter, a transfer to a different size unit due to a change in household composition, or to make a reasonable accommodation, will be considered a priority and will be placed on the wait list accordingly. Sandy impacted residents will take priority on requests.
2. Current residents must remain in the income level in what was determined at the time of leasing. For example, if you leased at a 2 Bedroom Moderate level income and now only require a 1 Bedroom, due to a change in household composition, the level remains the same; Moderate. Regardless of a decrease or increase in household income.

3. If a current resident needs to be placed in a smaller unit due to the death of a family household member, upon an available unit, the current resident must transfer.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS UNITS**

There are (5) Special Needs Units reserved for applicants with Special Needs. These applicants will be referred to us by DHS.

### **REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS**

1. A reasonable accommodation is a structural change made to an existing unit occupied by a person with a disability (and disability is typically defined as an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity) in order to afford such a person the full enjoyment of the premises.
2. A reasonable modification is a change, exception, or adjustment to a rule, policy or practice used in running a community.

### **TERMINATION OF LEASE**

According to the signed lease, the current resident listed in the lease agreement will be responsible for the lease terms, which are (12) twelve months. If a 60 days notice is obtained, the lease holder is still responsible for the lease until Management can get the unit occupied.

### **PET POLICY**

This is a NO pet policy apartment community. Service Animals are accepted with medical documentation only.







<b>FOR OFFICE ONLY:</b>
DATE: _____
TIME: _____
NO. _____

**PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Please read enclosed directions carefully. Incomplete applications will be returned.

**PLEASE PRINT- HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD INFORMATON**

<b>First, Last Name</b>		<b>Email Address:</b>
<b>Address, City, State, Zip Code</b>		<b>County:</b>
<b>Home Phone Number:</b>	<b>Cell Phone Number:</b>	<b>Alternate Phone Number:</b>

<b>ARE YOU A SANDY IMPACTED HOUSEHOLD? YES _____ NO _____ PLEASE INDICATE FEMA # _____</b>
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How many bedrooms are you interested in: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION (LIST ALL PERSONS TO LIVE IN HOME) AND INCOME**

Name(s) First & Last	Head of Household	Date of Birth	Gender (M/F)	Current Gross Annual Income*

\*Income includes, but is not limited to gross wages (before taxes), salaries, tips, commission, child support, pensions, and social security & disability benefits



**2. ASSETS (SAVINGS, CDS, STOCK, REAL ESTATE, OTHER INVESTMENTS, ETC.)**

Type of Asset	Current Market Value	Yearly Interest of Dividends**

\*\*Include Interest and Dividends from assets such as savings, checking, CDs, Money Market accounts, mutual funds, stocks and or bonds.

I certify that the information provided herein is true and complete and that any misrepresentation of income or household size reported herein shall be cause for program disqualification.

I also understand that this information is to be used only for determining my preliminary eligibility for referral to an affordable housing unit and does not obligate me in any way.

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PRINTED NAME OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Date

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SIGNATURE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Date









# MULTIPLE DWELLING REPORTING RULE TENANT/APPLICANT INQUIRY

The **New Jersey Law Against Discrimination**, *N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 to -49*, makes it unlawful to discriminate in the sale or rental of housing based on a person's race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, nationality, affectional or sexual orientation, disability, gender, marital status, familial status (whether you have a child, a parent-child relationship with a minor, or you are pregnant), lawful source of income or rental subsidy used for rental payments.

The **New Jersey Division on Civil Rights** is the State agency that is authorized to enforce the Law Against Discrimination. Under the Division's **Multiple Dwelling Reporting Rules**, *N.J.A.C. 13:10-1.1 to -2.6*, the Division requires landlords to collect and record information about applicants for apartment rentals and tenants in apartment complexes throughout New Jersey. The **Multiple Dwelling Reporting Rule** requires landlords to provide a summary of this information to the Division and to retain the information on this form. **The information is used to prevent and eliminate discrimination in housing.**

Your cooperation in filling out this form will assist the Division in enforcing the Law Against Discrimination.

Please note that, although landlords must record certain information about the race and ethnicity of applicants and tenants, it is unlawful to record or ask applicants or tenants about other characteristics such as religion, gender, marital status or affectional or sexual orientation.

If you feel you have been denied housing or treated differently for one of the reasons listed above, you may contact the Division on Civil Rights at (609) 984-3138 for referral to a local Division office for additional information or assistance.

Visit the Division on Civil Rights Web site at: [www.NJCivilRights.org](http://www.NJCivilRights.org)

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Tenants/applicants: Fold & tear along dotted line and retain top portion for your records

## MULTIPLE DWELLING REPORTING RULE TENANT/APPLICANT INQUIRY

If the tenant/applicant chooses not to complete this form, the landlord or the landlord's representative is required to conduct a visual observation of the tenant or applicant and then complete this form as accurately as possible.

**This form is not intended to be a part of the rental application process and must be kept separate and apart from rental records.**

Tenant  Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Race/Ethnicity: Please check all that apply to leaseholders (tenants) or applicants.

- Black or African American: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Africa
- Hispanic or Latino: a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American or other Spanish origin or culture, or a person having a Spanish surname
- Asian: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam
- American Indian or Alaska Native: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North or South America
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands
- White or Caucasian: a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle, or North Africa

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Completed by:  Tenant  Applicant  Landlord

If you have any questions regarding this inquiry please contact the Division on Civil Rights, Multiple Dwelling Unit at 609-984-3138 between the hours of 9:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday, or e-mail the MDRR unit at

[DCRMDRR@njcivilrights.org](mailto:DCRMDRR@njcivilrights.org)

DCR/HIU/MDRR/LS20



