

**Indian River County, Florida
Community Services Department
Board Memorandum**

Date: June 27, 2024

To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners

Thru: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Deputy County Administrator
William K. DeBaal, County Attorney
Cindy Emerson, Community Services Director

From: Stacey Bush, Housing Services Manager

Subject: Approval of Resolution Establishing Utility Rates for Housing Choice
Voucher Program for Fiscal Year 2025

BACKGROUND

Indian River County Code provides for the Deputy County Attorney to be the Fair Housing Coordinator for the County. Among the County's housing programs is the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV), formerly known as Section 8 Housing. Federal regulations require the Board to approve by resolution the utility rates on an annual basis.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program is a federally funded program administered by the County's Housing Services Division (Housing Services). The HCV Program is designed to benefit all participants. Private providers that own multi or single-family homes apply to Rental Assistance for participation in the HCV program. The units are inspected and approved for the HCV Program. Upon approval, private owners qualify for tax incentives that make participation in the Program profitable. The County owns no HCV Program housing.

The County benefits from the Voucher Program by receiving an administrative fee from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The County's Comprehensive Plan objective of providing housing to low and very low-income citizens is met by participating in the Voucher Program.

Each year, the Board must approve the rates for water, sewer, gas, electric, and propane in our area. For this fiscal year, Housing Services retained The Nelrod Company to conduct a local rate study for these utilities. Staff reviewed and approved the Nelrod rate study report and have included the results on a spread sheet attached to the resolution. Those rates must be approved by the County as it is a participant in the HCV Program. The resolution approving annual utility rates for Fiscal Year 2025, effective October 1, 2024, is attached for the Board's consideration.

FUNDING

There is no funding associated with this resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the utility rate resolution for Fiscal Year 2025 and authorize the Chairman to execute the resolution on behalf of the Board.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution
Housing Services Recommended Utility Rates for FY 2025

AGENDA ITEM FOR August 20, 2024