



**Effective December 29, 2024**, the following HUD policy change will be implemented for all inspections for the Housing Choice Voucher Program:

All smoke detectors must be either hard-wired or have a sealed, tamper-proof 10-year battery and must be installed in the required locations listed below:

## **REQUIRED LOCATIONS**

- One inside each bedroom
- One outside each sleeping area (installed within a hallway in the immediate vicinity of multiple bedrooms meets the requirement of "outside the bedroom(s)" and may meet the requirement of "on each level")
- One on every level of the home, including the basement
- On levels without bedrooms, required in the living room (or den/family room) or near the stairway to the upper level, or both locations
- In the basement, required on the ceiling at the bottom of the stairs leading to the next level

## **REQUIRED POSITIONING**

- Should be installed high on walls or ceilings
- If mounted on a ceiling, must be greater than 4" from the wall
- If mounted on the wall, cannot be closer than 4" or greater than 12" from the ceiling
- Should be at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance
- Should not be installed near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- Should not be covered by a foreign object (paint, tape, zip tie, plastic bag/shower cap, etc)
- Should not have stickers or other decorations present
- Must produce an audio or visual alarm when tested

Combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms will be evaluated under both the smoke alarm standard and the carbon monoxide standard.

We understand that changes can raise questions and we are here to help you. If you have questions or need further clarification, please contact our office at 952-402-9022.