



## Housing Authority of the County of Merced

405 U STREET MERCED, CA 95341  
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[www.merced-pha.com](http://www.merced-pha.com)

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July 14, 2020

The Housing Authority of the County of Merced ("Authority") is required to establish a monthly utility allowance reflecting a reasonable consumption of utilities consistent with a safe, sanitary, and healthy living unit by bedroom size and type. The utility allowance study is conducted by an independent third party.

The Authority is updating the Utility Allowances for all Public Housing units. The *Proposed Utility Allowances* revisions are attached and outline the proposed new utility allowances for all unit types, effective on October 1, 2020.

**Basis of determination:** An engineering-based methodology was utilized which took into consideration structure type, unit size and equipment. These allowances are based upon a reasonable consumption of an energy conservative family of modest circumstances and to provide for the basic essentials needed for a living environment that is safe, sanitary and healthful.

The proposed new utility allowances reflect that the utility provider's rate changes have increased. In some cases when the utility allowances increase, tenants' monthly rent portions may reflect a decrease.

The Authority retains a copy of the study conducted documenting the basis on which allowances are established and revised. The *Proposed Utility Allowance Survey and Study* is available for review on the website: [www.merced-pha.com](http://www.merced-pha.com), on the "Public Notices" link.

Residents have an opportunity to submit written comments no later than **September 30, 2020** to:

Housing Authority of the County of Merced  
Maria Alvarado  
405 U Street  
Merced, CA 95341  
Or via email to: [mariaa@merced-pha.com](mailto:mariaa@merced-pha.com)

All written comments will be retained by the Authority and shall be available for inspection.

Sincerely,

*Blanca Arrate*

Director of Housing Programs

