

In federal housing programs like Section 8 or Public Housing governed by HUD Regulations, the "lookback" period for a prior eviction or termination for cause is generally **5 years**. If a household was evicted from federally assisted housing within the past 5 years, public housing agencies (PHAs) must or can deny program admission or re-assistance, depending on the specific violation.  LII | Legal Information I... +1

Specific Lookback Windows by Infraction Type

- **Eviction from Assisted Housing:** Typically a **5-year** lookback period from the date of the eviction for prior termination or eviction from federally assisted housing.  LII | Legal Information Instit...
- **Drug or Alcohol Abuse Patterns:** A pattern of abuse (such as illegal drug use or alcohol abuse threatening others) often uses a **24-month (2-year)** lookback window to establish a repeated history of incidents.  Housing Opportunities Co...
- **Lifetime Bans (No Lookback Limit):** Certain severe actions—such as a conviction for manufacturing methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing or being subject to a lifetime sex offender registration requirement—carry no lookback limit and result in permanent denial or termination.  Brainerd HRA
- **Repayment Debts Owed to PHA:** If terminated for owing money, the lookback/ineligibility lasts until the balance is paid in full or a repayment agreement is struck and maintained.  LII | Legal Information I... +1

Procedural Notice Rules

- **Notice Timelines:** For actual lease terminations or program exits, rules vary. Under recent federal updates, notice requirements for nonpayment return to state-specific timelines (ranging from 5 to 30 days), while other lease violations or "good cause" actions lean on local housing authority administrative plans and state tenant laws.  Navigate Housing +1