public of the Marshall Islands
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Date of Issue: January 23, 2026

Instruction No.: PSC-2026-001

1. Purpose

This Instruction approves and establishes a standard Cash Housing Allowance of one thousand two hundred US dollars ($1,200) per month for an "entitled recipient" pursuant to adopted Government policy to receive a housing allowance. This Instruction further clarifies the definitions, scope of coverage, documentation requirements, administrative authority, and effective date applicable to housing allowances.

It is declaratory and administrative in nature and does not create any new entitlement, nor does it extend eligibility beyond that which is otherwise authorized by applicable law or policy.

2. Definitions

2.1 **Entitled Recipient**

For purposes of this Instruction, an "entitled recipient" means a public employee or public officer who, by virtue of his or her position or employment status, has been determined or designated by the Public Service Commission, with the approval of Cabinet, pursuant to a formally adopted Government or PSC policy, to be eligible for a cash housing allowance as provided under section 2.3 below.

2.2 **Government-Leased Housing (Direct-to-Landlord)**

Housing provided through a dwelling leased by the Government for an eligible recipient, with rental payments made directly to the landlord in accordance with Public Service Commission (PSC) housing payment standards and the applicable lease terms.

2.3 **Standard Cash Housing Allowance (Direct-to-Recipient)**

A monthly cash benefit paid directly to an entitled recipient to support housing costs. Under this Instruction, the standard rate is $1,200/month.

3. Policy

3.1 Standard Amount

All entitled recipients as defined in Section 2.1 shall receive a standard cash housing allowance of US$1,200 per month, **subject to the availability of appropriated funds and applicable budgetary constraints. This allowance does not create any new entitlement beyond that authorized under law or existing policy.**

3.2 Coverage

This allowance applies to public employees or public officers who are eligible under existing Government or PSC policy, as defined in Section .1, including, for example, the Attorney General, the Auditor General, and other officers or employees **whose eligibility is otherwise established.**

3.3 No Lease Required

A housing lease is NOT required for an entitled recipient to receive the standard cash housing allowance under this Instruction.

3.4 Non-Duplication

An entitled recipient shall not concurrently receive Government-leased housing and the standard cash housing allowance.

4. Effective Date

This Instruction shall take effect retroactively to October 1, 2025, aligning with the Government's updated housing rates. The Ministry of Finance – Payroll Division shall implement adjustments for all entitled recipients accordingly.

5. Administration & Eligibility Confirmation

5.1 Eligibility Confirmation

Human Resources or Administrative offices shall confirm eligibility for the standard cash housing allowance in accordance with Section 3.3. Eligibility verification shall include:

1. **Position or Employment Status:** confirming that the recipient's position or employment status is covered by an existing housing-allowance entitlement under law, regulation, contract, or policy; and
2. **Duty Station:** confirming the recipient's official duty station to ensure the allowance is applicable.

No lease document is required for eligibility confirmation, consistent with the principle established in Section 3.3.

5.2 Records

The PSC Housing Division and Ministry/Agency HR offices shall maintain a list of entitled recipients and keep payroll application records.

5.3 Review

The PSC may review and update this Instruction as needed to ensure fiscal responsibility compliance with governing law, and program integrity.

6. Legal Authority & Regulations

6.1 Constitutional Authority and independence

The Public Service Commission is established under Article VII, Section 5 of the RMI Constitution, which grants it broad authority over employment conditions, subject to applicable law. Housing benefits, as defined in sections 2.2 and 2.3 above, are considered part of these employment conditions. In this regard, the PSC exercises its authority independently, consistent with its constitutional mandate and applicable law.

6.2 PSC Act (5 MIRC Ch.1)

Under the PSC Act, the Commission is empowered to adopt and enforce regulations necessary to carry out its constitutional and statutory powers and duties. This authority includes the authority to administer and control all Government-owned or leased housing.

6.3 Public Service Regulations

The PSC may issue Instructions to implement, interpret, or amend conditions of Employment. Housing and Quarters are recognized benefits under the Public Service Regulations and the PSC is responsible for overseeing the administration of all Government housing benefits.

Jendrikdrik Paul
Chairman
Public Service Commission
Republic of the Marshall Islands

Almo Momotaro
Commissioner
Public Service Commission
Republic of the Marshall Islands

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