

## Exhibit 5-2: Assets

**NOTE:** There is no asset limitation for participation in HUD assisted-housing programs. However, the definition of annual income includes net income from family assets.

- A. Net Family Assets include the following:
1. Cash held in savings and checking accounts, safe deposit boxes, homes, etc. For savings accounts, use the current balance. For checking accounts, use the average balance for the last six months. Assets held in foreign countries are considered assets.
  2. Revocable trusts. Include the cash value of any revocable trust available to the family. See discussion of trusts in paragraph 5-7 G.1.
  3. Equity in rental property or other capital investments. Include the current fair market value less (a) any unpaid balance on any loans secured by the property and (b) reasonable costs that would be incurred in selling the asset (e.g., penalties, broker fees, etc.).  
**NOTE:** If the person's main business is real estate, then count any income as business income under paragraph 5-6 G of the chapter. Do not count it both as an asset and business income.
  4. Stocks, bonds, Treasury bills, certificates of deposit, mutual funds, and money market accounts. Interest or dividends earned are counted as income from assets even when the earnings are reinvested. The value of stocks and other assets vary from one day to another. The value of the asset may go up or down the day before or after rent is calculated and multiple times during the year thereafter. The owner may assess the value of these assets at any time after the authorization for the release of information has been received. The tenant may request an interim recertification at any time thereafter that a decrease in stock value may result in a decrease in rent.
  5. Individual retirement, 401K, and Keogh accounts. These are included when the holder has access to the funds, even though a penalty may be assessed. If the individual is making occasional withdrawals from the account, determine the amount of the asset by using the average balance for the previous six months. (Do not count withdrawals as income.)

### Example – Withdrawals from a Keogh Account

Ly Pham has a Keogh account valued at \$30,000. When she turns 70 years old, she begins drawing \$2,000 a year. Continue to count the account as an asset. Use the guidance in paragraph 5-7 to determine the cash value and imputed income from the asset. Do not count the \$2,000 she withdraws as income.

6. Retirement and pension funds.

- a. While the person is employed. Include only amounts the family can withdraw without retiring or terminating employment. Count the whole amount less any penalties or transaction costs. Follow paragraph 5-7 G.4 of the chapter on determining the value of assets.
- b. At retirement, termination of employment, or withdrawal. Periodic receipts from pension and retirement funds are counted as income. Lump-sum receipts from pension and retirement funds are counted as assets. Count the amount as an asset or as income, as provided below.
- (1) If benefits will be received in a lump sum, include the lump-sum receipt in net family assets.
  - (2) If benefits will be received through periodic payments, include the benefits in annual income. Do not count any remaining amounts in the account as an asset.
  - (3) If the individual initially receives a lump-sum benefit followed by periodic payments, count the lump-sum benefit as an asset as provided in the example below and treat the periodic payment as income. In subsequent years, count only the periodic payment as income. Do not count the remaining amount as an asset.

**NOTE:** This paragraph and the example below assume that the lump-sum receipt is a one-time receipt and that it does not represent delayed periodic payments. However, in situations in which a lump-sum payment does represent delayed periodic payments, then the amount would be considered as income and not an asset.

**Example – Retirement Benefits as Lump-Sum and Periodic Payments**

Upon retirement, Eleanor Reilly received a lump-sum payment of \$15,000. She will also receive periodic pension payments of \$350 a month.

The lump-sum amount of \$15,000 is generally treated as an asset. In this instance, however, Eleanor spent \$5,000 of the lump sum on a trip following her retirement. The remaining \$10,000 she placed in her mutual fund with other savings. The entire mutual fund will be counted as an asset.

The owner has verified that Eleanor is now not able to withdraw the balance from her pension. Therefore, the owner will count the \$350 monthly pension payment as annual income and will not list the pension account as an asset.

7. Cash value of life insurance policies available to the individual before death (e.g., the surrender value of a whole life policy or a universal life policy). It would not include a value for term insurance, which has no cash value to the individual before death.
8. Personal property held as an investment. Include gems, jewelry, coin collections, or antique cars held as an investment. Personal jewelry is NOT considered an asset.
9. Lump-sum receipts or one-time receipts. (See paragraph 5-6 \*\*P\*\* for additional information on what is counted as a lump-sum receipt and how to treat lump-sum receipts.) These include inheritances, capital gains, one-time lottery winnings, victim's restitution, settlements on insurance claims (including health and accident insurance, worker's compensation, and personal or property losses), and any other amounts that are not intended as periodic payments.
10. A mortgage or deed of trust held by an applicant.
  - a. Payments on this type of asset are often received as one combined payment of principal and interest with the interest portion counted as income from the asset.
  - b. This combined figure needs to be separated into the principal and interest portions of the payment. (This can be done by referring to an amortization schedule that relates to the specific term and interest rate of the mortgage.)
  - c. To count the actual income for this asset, use the interest portion due, based on the amortization schedule, for the 12-month period following the certification.
  - d. To count the imputed income for this asset, determine the asset value **\*\*as of the effective date of the certification\*\***. Since this amount will continually be reduced by the principal portion paid during the previous year, the owner will have to determine this amount at each annual recertification. See the following example:

#### **Example – Deed of Trust and Imputed Income**

Computation of imputed income:

An elderly tenant sells her home and holds the mortgage for the buyer. The cash value of the mortgage is \$60,000. The combined payment of principal and interest expected to be received for the upcoming year is \$5,000. The amortization schedule breaks that payment into \$2,000 in principal and \$3,000 in interest. In completing the asset income calculation, the cash value of the asset is \$60,000, and the projected annual income from that asset is \$3,000. **\*\*The imputed income would be calculated by multiplying the cash value of \$60,000 by the 2% imputed passbook rate.\*\*** Each subsequent year, the cash value of the asset should be reduced by the principal portion paid. In this example, it would be reduced to \$58,000 in the following year (\$60,000 – \$2,000 principal payment = \$58,000). **\*\*When calculating the imputed income for the following year, the owner would multiply the cash value of \$58,000 by the 2% passbook savings rate.\*\***

### Regulatory References

(These references are current as of the date of publication. Readers should refer to the latest edition of the Code of Federal Regulations.)

24 CFR part 5.603 defines net family assets as follows:

Net cash value after deducting reasonable costs that would be incurred in disposing of real property, savings, stocks, bonds, and other forms of capital investment, excluding interests in Indian trust land and the equity accounts in HUD homeownership programs. The value of necessary items of personal property such as furniture and automobiles shall be excluded. . . . In determining net family assets, owners shall include the value of any business or family assets disposed of by an applicant or tenant for less than fair market value (including a disposition in trust, but not in a foreclosure or bankruptcy sale) during the two years preceding the date of application for the program or recertification, as applicable, in excess of the consideration received therefor. In the case of a disposition as part of a separation or divorce settlement, the disposition will not be considered to be for less than fair market value if the applicant or tenant receives important consideration not measurable in dollar terms.

B. Net family assets **DO NOT** include the following:

**IMPORTANT:** The owner does not compute income from any assets in this paragraph.

1. Personal property (clothing, furniture, cars, wedding ring, other jewelry that is not held as an investment, vehicles specially equipped for persons with disabilities).
2. Interests in Indian trust land.
3. Term life insurance policies (i.e., where there is no cash value).
4. Equity in the cooperative unit in which the family lives.
5. Assets that are part of an active business. "Business" does NOT include rental of properties that are held as investments unless such properties are the applicant's or tenant's main occupation.

#### Example – Assets that are Part of an Active Business

- Laura and Lester Hines own a copier and courier service. None of the equipment that they use in their business is counted as an asset (e.g., the copiers, the FAX machines, the bicycles).
- Alice Washington rents out the home that she and her husband lived in for 42 years. This home is not an active business asset. Therefore, it is considered an asset and the owner must determine the annual income that Alice receives from it.

6. Assets that are NOT effectively owned by the applicant. Assets are not effectively owned when they are held in an individual's name, but (a) the assets and any income they earn accrue to the benefit of someone else who is not a member of the family, and (b) that other person is responsible for income taxes incurred on income generated by the assets.

**NOTE:** Nonrevocable trusts (i.e., irrevocable trusts) are not covered by this paragraph. See information on nonrevocable trusts in paragraph 5-7 G.1.

**Example – Assets not Effectively  
Owned by the Applicant**

Net family assets do not include assets held pursuant to a power of attorney because one party is not competent to manage the assets, or assets held in a joint account solely to facilitate access to assets in the event of an emergency.

**Example:** Alexander Cumbow and his daughter, Emily Bornscheuer, have a bank account with both names on the account. Emily's name is on that account for the convenience of her father in case an emergency arises that would result in Emily handling payments for her father. Emily has not contributed to this asset, does not receive interest income from it, nor does she pay taxes on the interest earned. Therefore, Emily does not own this account. If Emily applies for assisted housing, the owner should not count this account as her asset. This asset belongs to Alexander and would be counted entirely as the father's asset should he apply for assisted housing.

7. Assets that are not accessible to the applicant and provide no income to the applicant. Nonrevocable trusts are not covered under this paragraph. See information on nonrevocable trusts in paragraph 5-7 G.1.

**Example**

A battered spouse owns a house with her husband. Because of the domestic situation, she receives no income from the asset and cannot convert the asset to cash.