



Organizational Housing Agreement 2023-2024

Student organizations applying for organizational housing must be active organizations recognized by the Office of Campus Activities and Engagement and be in good standing with the University. The organization will be assigned organizational housing for the fall and spring terms only. The organization will be required to apply each year if organizational housing is desired. Organizations must agree to abide by the procedures and guidelines outlined in this document to obtain and maintain organizational housing privileges.

ORGANIZATIONAL HOUSING APPLICATION PROCESS

1. The House Manager and President of organizations seeking organizational housing must meet with the Executive Director of Housing, Dining & Residence Life prior to submitting their application. **This meeting should take place on or before Thursday, March 2, 2023.**
2. **Organizational Housing Application (2023-2034):** Any recognized student organization interested in obtaining organizational housing in a lodge for the upcoming academic year must submit a completed application. Once this document has been completed and received in Housing, Dining & Residence Life, it will be sent to the organization’s President, House Manager, and Advisor for electronic signature via DocuSign. **This application is due by noon, Friday, March 17, 2023.**
3. **An Individual Membership Commitment form:** This form is part of the Organizational Housing Application. Members should be aware being named on this form, even as an alternate, means they could be called upon to live in the House for Fall or Spring term or both. They must also understand that if they no longer wish to live in the House after signing the commitment form, they must obtain permission from the House Manager or organization President to move out of the house. Students who are included on an Individual Membership Commitment form are not permitted to be included in any other group application. Students will electronically sign an online version of the commitment form once the completed Individual Membership Commitment form has been submitted to Housing, Dining & Residence Life. **The deadline for members to sign this form is 12 p.m., Friday, March 24.**
4. **Organizational Buyout Request:** This form will need to be signed (electronically) by any resident who will be buying out their space (receiving a private room). **The deadline for residents buying out a space to sign this form is 12 p.m., Friday, March 24.**
5. A comprehensive roster of all active organization members (including student ID Numbers). This roster should match the organizational roster on file with Campus Activities and Engagement. **This document should be submitted along with the Organizational Housing Application and is due by 12 p.m., Friday, March 17, 2023.**
6. The Office of Housing, Dining & Residence Life will process room assignments for the organization based on the information provided on the Organizational Member Commitment Form.
 - **Organization members must move into the rooms assigned by the Office of Housing, Dining & Residence Life.** Room assignments cannot be changed until after the first week of classes. The House Manager is also responsible for reporting any room changes within the House throughout the year to Housing, Dining & Residence Life. Failure by the House Manager or other organizational officer to communicate with Housing, Dining & Residence Life could jeopardize the organization’s future ability to obtain organizational housing. Keys are issued to individual students and must be returned by the same student.
 - This document must be completed in its entirety and submitted on time to be considered for approval.

- The organization must ensure that each individual member pays the \$150 housing deposit and completes the online housing application required to re-contract. Housing deposits are payable through the online housing application process and due by **5 p.m., Thursday, March 16. Failure of any organizational member to pay the \$150 housing deposit and complete an online housing application by this date will result in organizational disqualification.**
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted or reviewed. Failure to submit a completed application on time could disqualify the organization from obtaining organizational housing.

APPLICATION APPROVAL AND LODGE ASSIGNMENT

- The following criteria will be considered in reviewing and approving an application:
 - Date of application.
 - Membership/occupancy level for the previous school year (if applicable).
 - Incident Reports involving the organization, including the level of incident reports made by Campus Police and Residence Life Staff and the degree of disciplinary action taken as a result of reported incidents.
 - Record of housing violations documented for the previous year (if applicable).
 - Physical condition of the organization’s lodge during the current school year (if applicable) including damages that had to be repaired during the course of a semester or at closing.
 - Programs co-sponsored with Residence Life Staff and events held in the facility during the current year.
 - Academic and/or financial viability of students appearing on roster.
 - Group indebtedness to the University during the current school year.
- Organizations will also be required to submit a summary of activities in which their members were engaged during the current academic year (2022-2023) to fulfill the organization's mission and grow membership.
- Upon approval of the application, the organization will be notified as to the maximum size lodge for which it qualifies. An organization may opt for a smaller lodge.
 - Approved applications will be evaluated as to the appropriate lodge size. Lodge size will be specified based upon the number of students in the organization committed to live in organizational housing and past history involving the ability of the organization to keep the house full as follows:

Lodge Size	Occupancy	# of Alternates Required
Small	8	Minimum of 2
Large	14	Minimum of 3

NOTE: Only active members of the organization, who are otherwise eligible for student housing, will be counted. Only current students of the spring term prior to this agreement period will be counted toward the minimum requirements. Reinstated or transfer students should be listed as alternates as they cannot complete a deposit or housing application until after the recontracting period ends.

- Housing, Dining & Residence Life will assign specific lodges first to organizations eligible to return to currently held lodges, and then to all other organizations.
- Students receiving assignments in organizational housing will forfeit their eligibility for all other housing assignments.
- All persons appearing on an organization’s application and House roster must be current/active members of the organization and listed on the organization’s roster. The person must also be a full-time registered student for the fall term.
- Housing, Dining & Residence Life reserves the right to reassign organizations to a different location based upon, but not limited to, the condition of the organization’s current lodge at check out and projected fall

term occupancy. Excessive damage to the current assignment may result in change of future housing assignments or ineligibility for organizational housing.

Maintaining Organizational Housing

- The organization will be required to maintain 100% occupancy (combination of residents and buyouts) according to the size of the assigned lodge. The maximum number of buyouts is as follows:

Lodge Size	Occupancy	Maximum # of Buyouts
Small	8	2
Large	14	4

- Failure to maintain the required occupancy will result in suspension of the organizational housing status. During periods of suspension, organizations are not permitted to engage in any social activities or conduct official organization business.
 - **If an organization has a vacancy at the beginning of a semester**, the organization will have until the end of the second week of the semester to fill the vacancy. In the event the organization cannot fill the vacancy, the organizational housing status will be suspended.
 - **If a vacancy occurs during the course of the current semester**, the organization will be given two weeks to fill the vacancy. In the event the organization cannot fill the vacancy, the organizational housing status will be suspended.
- Any/all vacancies must be filled by organization members only. Vacancies may not be filled by first-year students.
- In the event organizational housing status is suspended, the organization will not be permitted to host social events or conduct official organization business in the house.
- At no time may a first-year student live in organizational housing.
- The House Manager must seek approval from Housing, Dining & Residence Life regarding any desired changes to individual member room assignments. Failure to receive approval prior to making room changes is a violation of official Housing policy and will result in a fine of \$100 for each unauthorized change. At all times, Housing, Dining & Residence Life must have an accurate assignment roster for each residential area.
- Medical accommodations for single rooms will count toward the maximum number of buyouts permitted. Those students with such an accommodation will not be charged for the buyout.
- Single Room/Vacancy Buy-out policy: A member may buy out the space in the room. NOTE: Buying out the space will result in an increased cost to the member. The member must sign the “Request to Buy out Organizational Space” agreement available on the Johnstown Campus Housing & Dining Services task center on the Pitt Portal. **This agreement is for one-term only and needs to be completed each semester a buyout is requested.**
 - If the remaining resident of the room with the vacancy does not choose to buy out the space, the organization is responsible for filling the vacancy within two weeks. Failure to do so will result in suspension of organizational housing status.
 - The organization should make every effort to limit the number of vacancies and maintain a full house.
 - The Office of Housing, Dining & Residence Life must approve all buyouts.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

- All policies and guidelines outlined in the [Housing & Dining Services Contract](#), [Residential Handbook](#), [Student Code of Conduct](#) and this document are applicable to students living in an organizational house.
- The organization will be required to maintain an orderly House wherein the policies of the University and the laws of the Commonwealth are obeyed by the membership and guests.

- The organization's House Manager must accompany a member of the Housing, Dining & Residence Life staff during the pre- and post-inspections for damage assessments. Decisions rendered by Housing, Dining & Residence Life staff member are final and not subject to appeal.
- Periodic inspections will be made of organizational housing areas for health and safety purposes and to assess any concerns regarding the area.
- The organization (or residents of the House) will be held financially responsible for any damage created by members and/or their guests. Failure by the organization to pay damage fines by the due date will result in the organizational housing status being suspended.
- The organization is ultimately responsible and will be held liable for the behavior of all guests.
- University furniture may not be moved out of student rooms. University curtains or blinds may not be replaced.
- University furniture provided for the lobby areas of the lodge should remain in those areas, and not in student rooms.
- Non-University is not permitted to be brought into the House.
- The organization will be permitted to decorate the assigned lodge common area with the organization's name, shield, logo, or other identification symbol(s). If the organization wishes to mount permanent decorations, or paint any surface, Housing, Dining & Residence Life must first approve designs and any specifications for this purpose. No other alterations, painting, renovation, etc. will be permitted without the written authorization of the Executive Director of Housing, Dining & Residence Life and/or designee.
 - Any items that require being hung from walls or otherwise attached to permanent facility structures require approval by Office of Housing, Dining & Residence Life. The actual hanging must be completed by Facilities Management staff.
 - Any items hung on walls or other areas of the House must be certified as flame retardant.
 - Any permanent decorations or painting that is done without the appropriate prior approval will be removed or painted over. The organization will be responsible for the costs associated with the removal and/or painting.
 - The organization will be responsible for the costs associated with painting, repairing, or cleaning the House upon the termination of the organizational housing status.
- Any additional free-standing structure (such as stages, etc.) must be approved by the Office of Housing, Dining & Residence Life.
- No items may be hung on any exterior walls or surfaces without authorization from the Office of Housing, Dining & Residence Life.
- Signs, fabric (including flags), or other items cannot be hung in a way that blocks any window, including exterior or interior windows, or presents a fire risk.
- University-provided window coverings cannot be removed or modified in any manner.
- Furniture should not be placed in a way that blocks heating sources or access to exits.
- Except as noted herein, the University will administer and regulate organizational housing in the same manner as all other campus housing. Common areas will be treated as public areas just as in all other residential facilities.
- The House Manager or President must schedule an appointment with the Office of Housing, Dining & Residence Life to conduct a final walkthrough at the end of the academic year.
- Failure of the organization to abide by any part of this agreement may result in an administrative sanction and/or loss of organizational housing privileges.

By requesting organizational housing, the organization understands and abides by the procedures for obtaining and maintaining organizational housing contained in this document. The attached documents (Organizational Member Commitment and Organizational Activity Summary) must be submitted with this application by Friday, March 17, 2023. **Each student listed on the Organizational Member Commitment form must have paid a**

housing deposit and completed an online housing application by the 5 p.m., Thursday, March 16. Each student will also be required to sign the Individual Commitment Form, available in the Johnstown Campus Housing and Dining Services task center on the Pitt Portal, by noon, Friday, March 24. Failure to do so will nullify this application.