



Housing Choice Voucher E-Newsletter

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<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/>

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HUD Funding Provisions for the Housing Choice Voucher Program Issued

HUD recently issued Notice PIH 2011-27 (HA) "Implementation of the Federal Fiscal Year 2011 Funding Provisions for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program." This Notice provides the allocation procedure for determining housing assistance payments (HAP) renewal funds, new incremental vouchers, and administrative fees as provided in the Appropriations Act for 2011, referred to in the Notice as "the 2011 Act." Detailed information is provided in the Notice regarding how HUD calculates funding for each HCV program administered by public housing agencies (PHAs). PHAs will also receive a funding letter with individual funding calculations.

The Notice is divided into sections outlining the funding for vouchers and administrative fees, and other policy issues.

The Notice provides an explanation of funding for tenant protection vouchers such as those for tenants facing housing conversion actions, and funding for administrative costs including ongoing administrative fees and new voucher administrative fees. Other funding topics discussed in the Notice include use of HAP net restricted assets (NRA), Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS), Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), and HAP disbursements and adjustments to monthly disbursements. Funding for the Mainstream 5 program (MS5) according to the 2011 Act will come from the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Account (TBRA) for the renewal funding for the remainder of CY 2011.

Additionally, HUD reminds PHAs in this Notice that PHAs must manage their programs "in a prudent manner to enable them to serve families within their CY2011 allocations and voucher baselines." HUD plans to continue to monitor utilization and to conduct on-site reviews of PHAs to ensure data integrity. The Notice indicates that Moving to Work (MTW) agencies continue to have funding based on their MTW agreements.

PHAs with questions regarding funding allocations should contact the Housing Voucher Financial Management Division, Office of Public Housing and Voucher Programs, at 202-708-2934.

To view the Notice go to: <http://1.usa.gov/iW69DI>

PIH Notices

PIH 2011-29, "HQS Inspections for the Housing Choice Voucher Program and Guidance Related to Electrical Outlets," issued June 3, 2011. This Notice reviews the existing Housing Quality Standards (HQS) requirements and clarifies the existing guidance that PHAs may rely upon when conducting inspections. It also offers additional guidance on what types of three-prong electrical outlets an inspector should consider acceptable under HQS.

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PIH 2011-28, "Cost- Savings Measures in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program," issued May 27, 2011. This Notice extends and revises Notice PIH 2009-44 which provided: (1) guidance on actions PHAs may take to address financial shortfalls by reducing costs in the HCV program; and (2) information on the circumstances under which a PHA may deny a move under 24 CFR 982.314(e)(1) or terminate a HAP contract under 24 CFR 982.454 as a result of insufficient funding.

PIH 2011-27, "Implementation of the Federal Fiscal Year 2011 Funding Provisions for the Housing Choice Voucher Program," issued June 2, 2011. This Notice implements the HCV program funding provisions of H.R. 1473 Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (PL 112-10). This Notice is discussed more fully in this newsletter.

PIH 2011-25, "Extension: Administrative Guidance for Effective and Mandated Use of the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System," issued May 30, 2011. This Notice extends Notice PIH-2010-19(HA), same subject, for another year until May 31, 2012.

To view the Notices: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/publications/notices/>

The Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP)

The Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) is a pilot program that was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and HUD in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and implemented a second time after Hurricanes Ike and Gustav. DHAP is an effective temporary rental housing assistance program designed to help families rebuild their lives as they move toward greater self-sufficiency. To reach families nationwide, HUD used its extensive network of PHAs to provide the housing assistance and case management services to eligible families. Along with providing case management services, a critical component of the program is the implementation of an incremental rent transition (IRT). Families are required to pay a portion of their rent in preparation towards self-sufficiency when DHAP ends. PHAs implement the IRT by reducing the rental subsidy payment by an additional \$50 each month until the family's participation in DHAP ends, the rent subsidy amount equals \$0, or the program concludes, whichever comes first. Should the IRT place too much of a financial strain on a family, the PHA has the ability to grant a hardship waiver which would freeze the family's portion owed at an increment they can afford.

Through DHAP-Katrina, almost 37,000 families received rental housing assistance and case management services. At the conclusion of the program, approximately 22,000 of the program's participants had reached self-sufficiency and were able to pay the full amount of their rental housing costs. More than 14,000 families were placed in a permanent housing solution, most of which were the elderly and disabled.

The epic success of DHAP-Katrina prompted the call for DHAP-Ike after Hurricanes Ike and Gustav left thousands of families displaced from their homes. DHAP-Ike began on November 1, 2008, and was originally scheduled to end in March 2010. However, in response to the ongoing needs of DHAP-Ike families, the program was ultimately extended to September 30, 2011. To date DHAP-Ike has assisted almost 27,000 families in need of housing assistance. Currently there are 4,344 families remaining on the program, of which, approximately 98 percent require a hardship waiver due to financial burden.

As the end of DHAP-Ike approaches, HUD continues its efforts to meet the housing and community needs of those displaced, without forcing families into inadequate choices. HUD and PHA staff persist in giving those families a better range of options so that they may transition seamlessly from DHAP-Ike to a viable alternative housing solution.

To learn more, visit <http://1.usa.gov/m0KxgS>

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