



General Program Information

What is the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program?

The Housing Choice Programs were created by Congress as part of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington D.C. is responsible for providing program regulations and guidelines for allowing all HUD rules and regulations for the Housing Choice Programs.

The purpose of Housing Choice Programs is to provide rental assistance to eligible low-income families, the elderly and persons with special needs in decent, safe, and sanitary housing. Families have a variety of housing opportunities including apartments, single-family homes, duplexes and townhomes.

Housing Choice Programs

Previously, there were two Section 8 Programs tenant-based rental assistance programs; the Rental Certificate Program and the Housing Voucher Program. In 1988, these two programs merged into the Housing Choice Voucher Program. The Housing Choice Voucher Program enables participants to receive a subsidy while leasing from landlords in the private market. To qualify, an applicant must:

- Meet definition of “family”
- Meet HUD’s income guidelines
- Furnish Social Security numbers, Birth Certificates and Photo ID’s
- Furnish evidence of citizenship/eligible immigrant status
- Pass a criminal background check