



SPECIAL PURPOSE VOUCHERS

Knowledge is Power!!!

What are Special Purpose Vouchers???

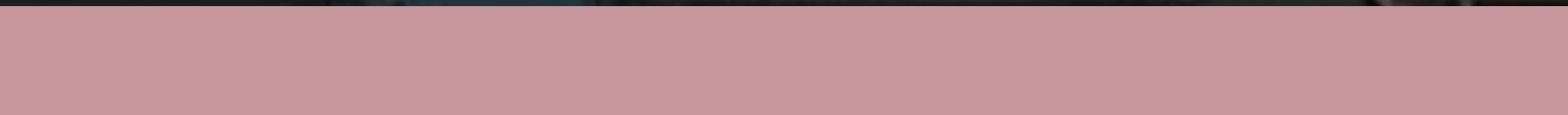
- HUD defines Special Purpose Vouchers as a program that focus on a specific demographic to assist in giving the individual/family the opportunity to find an affordable home.
- These vouchers are separate from regular HCV Tenant Based Vouchers that are assigned to the Housing Authority.
- Housing Authority must apply to obtain these types of programs vouchers.

TYPES OF SPECIAL PURPOSE VOUCHERS

- Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)
- Family Unification Program (FUP)
- Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative
- Mainstream Vouchers
- Non-Elderly Disabled (NED)
- Stability Voucher Program
- Tenant Protection Vouchers
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers
- Witness Relocation Program



BREAKDOWN OF SPV'S



Mainstream & Non-Elderly Disabled (NED)

- Mainstream and Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) vouchers are Housing Choice Vouchers with special eligibility criteria to serve non-elderly persons with disabilities
 - (at least 18 years and less than 62 years) or
 - households with a member with disabilities.
- There are small differences between the Mainstream and NED
- Programs, and within the NED program there are two types of vouchers:
 - Category 1: non-elderly persons and families with disabilities and
 - Category 2: persons leaving institutional care for community-based housing and services.
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awards these vouchers through competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity processes (NOFO); additional awards based on performance (including utilization) have also been made to Mainstream applicants funded through NOFO



New Mainstream Requirements Changes

- Effective August 20, 2024 (PIH Notice 2024-30)
- PHAs must adopt the mandatory policies described in the Notice within 120 days from the issuance of the Notice. (December 18, 2024)
- Initial Search Term (24 CFR 982.303(a)) - Mandatory
 - Waives the ability for PHAs to use a minimum initial search term of 60 days for Mainstream Voucher applicants.
 - A PHA must provide a minimum initial search term of 120 days for Mainstream Voucher applicants.
- Extension of Term (24 CFR 982.303(b)(1)) - Mandatory
 - Waives the ability for PHAs to grant first extensions at its discretion.
 - PHAs must adopt an extension policy for Mainstream Vouchers that includes the following:
 1. Each extension must be for a minimum of 90 days,
 2. PHA must approve the first extension request, regardless of how the request is made (written or verbal) or when it is made, as long as the request is made on or before the term expiration date and is consistent with applicable requirements; subsequent requests should be processed in accordance with the PHA's administrative plan, and
 3. PHA must, on at least one occasion after voucher issuance, notify the family prior to the initial term expiration to remind them of the term expiration date, the process for requesting an extension, and to inquire if the family needs assistance with their housing search.

New Mainstream Requirements Changes

- Waiting List (24 CFR 982.204(f) & 24 CFR 982.207(c)(1)) – Not Mandatory
 - Waives the requirement that PHAs maintain one HCV waiting list.
 - PHAs may establish a waiting list separate from their HCV waiting list for Mainstream Vouchers
 - Waives the requirement that date and time of application, if used by the PHA, applies only to the HCV waiting list.
 - PHAs that opt to establish a separate Mainstream waiting list and rely on the date and time of application method, they must rely on the date and time of application for their Mainstream waiting list as well. (Only mandatory if establishing separate waiting list.)
 - Preferences (24 CFR 982.207(a), Section 8(o)(6)(A) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 & 24 CFR 982.207(b))
 - Waives the requirement that PHAs maintain one set of HCV preferences.
 - PHAs may establish separate preferences for Mainstream Voucher applicants. PHAs that claimed points for a preference in a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) must continue to maintain a preference for at least one of the targeted groups identified in the NOFO. (Not Mandatory)
 - Waives the ability for PHAs to establish a residency preference for Mainstream Voucher applicants.
 - A PHA may not apply any residency preference to Mainstream Voucher applicants. **(This is mandatory)**
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Family Unification Program (FUP) & Foster Youth to Independence (FYI)



- The Family Unification Program (FUP) and Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative makes HCVs available to PHAs in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs).
- FUP vouchers serve to assist child welfare involved families who lack adequate housing to prevent the out-of-home placement of their child or children, or to facilitate family reunification.
- Both FUP and FYI vouchers assist youth between the ages of 18-24 who have exited foster care or will exit foster care within 90 days and are experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness.
- FUP vouchers are allocated to PHAs through a competitive NOFO process.
- FYI vouchers awards have included both competitive NOFO as well as non-competitive awards based on demonstrated need and PHA administrative performance (including utilization of FUP and FYI).

HUD Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD VASH)



- The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program combines HCVs for homeless Veteran households with case management and clinical services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC)- or a VA contractor or VA designated service provider (DSP).
 - HUD and the VA collaboratively award HUD-VASH vouchers to VAMC and PHA partnerships based on geographic need and PHA administrative performance.
 - In recent years, this allocation has been done through a registration of interest notice, requiring PHAs to self-identify interest in additional vouchers.
 - HUD-VASH eligible households consist of eligible homeless veterans and their families.
 - Eligibility determination and veteran selection and intake is done by the VAMC (or DSP). After intake, HUD-VASH eligible families are referred to the partnering PHA for the issuance of a voucher or selection for a PBV unit.
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New Operating Requirement with HUD-VASH

- Effective August 13, 2024 (FR 6476-N-01)
 - HUD is expanding access to HUD-VASH for veterans by:
 - Requiring PHAs to set the initial income eligibility for veterans at 80% of Area Median Income, rather than 50% of Area Median Income. (Mandatory)
 - Adopting an alternative definition of annual income for HUD-VASH applicants and participants that excludes veterans' service-connected disability benefits when determining eligibility.
 - This alternative annual income definition could be adopted by other housing subsidy programs to determine income eligibility.
 - The exception for VA service connected disability benefits is only for determining HUD-VASH program eligibility. PHAs must still include this income when calculating the rent/TTP/HAP.
 - Only if the veteran selects a HUD-VASH PBV unit either on the grounds of a VA facility or with on-site VA services and is determined to be zero-HAP because the TTP is higher than the contract rent, the veteran may lease up in the HUD-VASH PBV unit with zero-HAP. (Alternatively, the PHA and owner could agree to remove the unit from HAP contract to allow the veteran to lease there and receive VA services without utilizing a HUD-VASH voucher.)
 - New flexibility around verifying social security number (SSN) based on HOTMA updates
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New Operating Requirement with HUD-VASH

New Requirement Changes Cont:

- New requirement for PHAs to accept self-certification of assets under \$50,000 as established in HOTMA and allow self-certification of zero-income.
- New authorization for PHAs to apply reasonable accommodation exception payment standards for HUD-VASH families without additional HUD approval.
- New flexibility to allow noncompetitive selection of one or more PBV projects where all units in the project(s) are made exclusively available to HUD-VASH families on the site of a VA facility.
- New flexibility allowing admittance of zero-HAP families for HUD-VASH PBV
- New flexibility to allow PHAs to set a lower minimum rent (including a minimum rent of \$0) specifically for their HUD-VASH program.
- These changes are only for the HUD-VASH program and should not be used towards veterans who are not considered for the HUD-VASH program. These changes should be implemented moving forward and be updated in your Administrative Plan.



Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

- Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program provides HCVs to PHAs to assist individuals and families who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, or were recently homeless or have a high risk of housing instability.
- HUD allocated these vouchers to communities with the greatest need for EHV and where local PHAs demonstrated the capacity to administer the vouchers. Collaboration and referrals from the CoC and Victim Service Providers (VSPs) are a key element of the EHV program implementation along with many waivers to reduce housing barriers.
- Unlike the other SPVs discussed, which are funded through annual appropriations and are permanent assistance, EHV are one-time funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and set to expire in Sept 2030
- **Note* EHV vouchers no longer being issued since after September 30, 2023.*

Additional Resources

- CoC/PHA Collaboration
 - [CoC and PHA Collaboration: Strategies for CoCs to Start the Partnership Conversation](#)
 - [Using EHV Data Between PHAs and CoCs](#)
 - [VA Participation in Coordinated Entry Guidance \(hudexchange.info\)](#)
 - [PHA and CoC Collaboration Case Studies](#)
- Veteran-Specific Resources
 - [Beyond HUD-VASH: Ending Veteran Homelessness Webinar - HUD Exchange](#)
- Other Voucher-Specific or General Resources
 - [PHA Strategies to Assist People Experiencing Homelessness Guidebook - HUD Exchange](#)
 - [Notice PIH 2013-15 \(HA\): Guidance on housing individuals and families experiencing homelessness through the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs](#)
 - [ACYF-CB-IM-17-03 \(hhs.gov\)](#)
 - [Housing Services - Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)



Thank You!!

