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# THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF TULARE

Cindy Lopez Programs/MTW Coordinator

# *Our Mission*

- **Mission Statement:** To provide affordable, well-maintained rental housing to qualified low and very low-income families. Priority shall be given to working families, seniors and the disabled. Tenant self-sufficiency and responsibility shall be encouraged. Programs shall be self-supporting to the maximum extent feasible.
- In support of furthering our Mission, the Housing Authority recognizes the need in our community for families who are unhoused and as such has elected to administer Special Purpose Vouchers (SPV), a type of Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, administered by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs). When utilized strategically and collaboratively with Continuums of Care (CoCs) and other partners, these programs provide unique opportunities to target rental assistance resources to specific populations to advance a community's plan to end homelessness, support a community's equity outcomes, and create ways to meaningfully engage with people with lived experience of homelessness and involvement with various systems. Among those are SPVs are Emergency Housing Choice Vouchers (EHV), Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), Mainstream Vouchers (MVP), and Foster Youth Vouchers (FYI). These Special Purpose Vouchers allocation is separate from our MTW contract.

# OVERVIEW OF OUR VOUCHER PROGRAMS

- Various types of Voucher Programs administered
  - *(Referring agencies with work with and the referral process)*
- How our Programs work
- Questions

# Special Purpose Voucher Fact Sheets

- 134 MAINSTREAM VOUCHERS (Referred through KTHA) (4 vouchers available)
  - Mainstream 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.*
- 68 VASH VOUCHERS (Referred through VA) (15 vouchers available)
  - 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-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*
- 117 EMERGENCY HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS (Referred through KTHA & Family Services) (0 vouchers available)
  - 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 in this fact sheet, 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** – EHV vouchers cannot be re-issued after **September 30, 2023**.
- **25 NEW** FOSTER YOUTH VOUCHERS (Referred through Child Welfare Services) (pending MOU approval to start administering)
  - Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative makes HCVs available to PHAs in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs). *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.*

# *Additional Partnerships and Referrals Accepted*

- 50 vouchers allocated to CSET for eligible families whose participation in job training programs or whose employment is jeopardized by lack of a stable housing situation
  - *30 slots available*
- 39 Vouchers allocated to Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and Central Vally Regional Center (CVRC) for persons whose certified to be physically developmentally or mentally disabled that participating in a planned and ongoing program(s) of rehabilitation, education or other supportive services.
  - *DOR – 3 slots available*
  - *CVRC – 3 slots available*
- 20 Vouchers allocated to Child Welfare Services to go towards assisting in Family Re-Unification & 10 Vouchers are allocated towards foster youth (18-21) aging our of the Foster Care System
  - *12 slots available (Family Unification)*
  - *10 slots available (Foster Care)*
- 10 Vouchers allocated to KTHA for Move – Up
  - *2 slots available*

# Referral Process

- Referring agency provides referral to include the following to HATC
  - *Completed Application*
  - *Birth Certificate, ID, Social for all family members*
  - *Income information, assets etc. (i.e. paystubs, social security award letter, bank statements etc.)*
  - *Verifying letter (i.e., homeless verification letters, disabled verification, etc.)*
- HATC receives the referral and starts screening process to determine eligibility and gets ready to brief family.
  - *During briefing family is provided the program overview and how to lease a unit*
  - *Family is Issued voucher*
  - *Family can start searching for a unit*

# A description of how the program works

## HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:

1. **APPLICATION:** The applicant submits application to the Housing Authority and is placed on the waiting list for their turn for assistance or *is referred through referring agencies*.
2. **SCREENING OF ELIGIBILITY STARTS, BRIEF AND ISSUE VOUCHER:** During this process, we screen families, verify income, brief family on program requirements and issue voucher.
3. **HOUSING SELECTION:** During this process the family must find affordable housing that qualifies for the program. If you are receiving a Emergency Housing Choice (EHV) Voucher, Mainstream (MVP) Voucher, Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) or Foster Youth Voucher (FYI) you will have a total of 120-days to search for a unit.
4. **LEASE AND REQUEST FOR LEASE APPROVAL:** The landlord and family submit a lease and a request for lease approval form to the Housing Authority. This is referred to the Unit Paperwork. The lease agreement is binding to both parties for one (1) year. On the request for lease approval, the landlord must disclose any known lead-based paint in the unit.
5. **HOUSING AUTHORITY REVIEW:** The Housing Authority reviews the lease and inspects the dwelling to be sure it meets the Housing Quality Standards and the program regulations.
6. **CONTRACT:** Once the inspection passes, the landlord and Housing Authority execute a contract in order for housing assistance payments to begin. (This assistance will start on day of approved inspection if families moves in that day or day families receives keys to move in)
7. **RENT PAYMENTS:** The Housing Authority pays the landlord a fixed portion of the rent each month, this portion is called the HAP amount. The family would pay the remainder.

# Our Future Planning & Goals

- We requested additional Emergency Housing Choice Vouchers from HUD to further support our goal to continue to help families unhoused in our County through our Special Purpose Vouchers
- We are applying for funding made available by HUD for VASH Vouchers for eligible services in collaboration with the VA
- Continue to apply for Special Purpose Vouchers upon availability of funding from HUD
- Community Partnerships Support
  - *Continue efforts to advocate families complete their annual reexam/recertification process to ensure stabilization of families already participating in our program*
    - Helping maintains units to ensure inspections pass
    - Complete annual reexam
    - Report any income changes within 10-days
    - Report a family changes
    - Follow program guidelines and lease agreement



Thank you to all our community partners and agencies that further support our mission!

Questions?