

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Housing Authority of the City of Norwalk will be conducting a Public Hearing regarding a substantial amendment and revised Annual Submission to its 2018 Public Housing Agency Plan. The draft amendment relates to the administration of new Mainstream Vouchers. A public hearing will be held on November 14, 2018 at 5:30PM in the community room at Leroy Downs Apartments, 26 Monroe Street, Norwalk, CT.

Proposed documents are available for review from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday at the Norwalk Housing Authority Central Office, 24½ Monroe Street, Norwalk or at www.norwalkha.org/news. If you have any questions regarding the Plan, please contact Kras Carlucci, Director of Operations at 203-838-8471 ext. 125. Equal Housing Opportunity.

Housing Choice Voucher

Administrative Plan

Addendum Chapter 20

Mainstream Vouchers

Introduction

Mainstream Vouchers

Mainstream Vouchers are available for HCV eligible applicants who are: non-elderly persons with disabilities who meet at least one of the following 3 criteria: 1) transitioning out of institutional or other segregated settings; 2) at serious risk of institutionalization; or 3) homeless. The target beneficiaries or voucher recipients for these vouchers are any household that includes one or more non-elderly person with disabilities.

PHA Response:

NHA has established formal partnerships with multiple health and human services agencies and the Coordinated Access Network of the local Continuum of Care (CAN) who have a demonstrated capacity to coordinate services and support to enable disabled individuals to live independently in the community. These partnerships will assist NHA by providing referrals, assisting with a timely transition to a unit, and providing the opportunity to access supportive services and supports.

A. Family Eligibility and Selection

NHA will receive referrals from the Coordinated Access Network (CAN) which will prioritize referrals of homeless individuals and families based on chronicity and vulnerability. Two (2) vouchers will be set aside by the CAN to be utilized by non-homeless disabled, currently institutionalized or living in congregate settings. If no such non-homeless disabled individuals or families are identified, the voucher will be given to the next prioritized individual or family identified by the CAN. Written documentation of these referrals will be maintained in the tenant file at NHA.

B. Income Eligibility

NHA must determine income eligibility for Mainstream families in accordance with 24 CFR 982.201. Families whose annual income exceeds the applicable income limit will be denied admission.

C. Initial Term of the Voucher

Mainstream vouchers are issued with an initial search term of 120 days. Extension, suspensions, and progress reports will remain under the policies in NHA's Administrative Plan, but will apply after the minimum 120-day initial search term.

D. Initial Lease Term

Under the HCV program, voucher participants must enter into an initial lease with the owner for at least one year.

E. Portability of Mainstream Vouchers

An eligible Mainstream Voucher holder wishing to exercise portability to another jurisdiction must choose a location where there are supportive services and case management services.

(1) Portability Moves Where Case Management is Provided by the Initial PHA's Partnering CAN

If the family moves under portability, and NHA's partnering CAN will still be able to provide the necessary case management services due to its proximity to the partnering CAN, the receiving PHA must process the move in accordance with the portability procedures of 24 CFR 982.355. If the receiving PHA has Mainstream vouchers available, they may absorb or administer the voucher.

(2) Portability Moves Where Case Management is Provided by the Receiving PHA's Partnering Supportive Services

If a family wants to move to another jurisdiction where it will not be possible for NHA's partnering CAN to provide case management services, the CAN must first approve the family's relocation and then determine that the Mainstream family could be served by another supportive services partner or supportive network that is participating in the Mainstream Voucher program and the receiving PHA must have a Mainstream voucher available for this family. In these cases, the families must be absorbed by the receiving PHA either as a new admission (if the family did not participate in NHA's Mainstream program) or a portability move-in (after an initial leasing in the PHA's jurisdiction). When the Mainstream Voucher is absorbed by the receiving PHA, NHA's voucher will become available to lease to a new HUD-eligible family, as determined by the partnering CAN or supportive services network and the absorbed family will count toward the number of HUD-Mainstream slots awarded to the receiving PHA.

If CAN case management services are no longer needed for the resident and if a HCV tenant based voucher is available the family may be offered a tenant-based voucher, provided the family meets all HCV eligibility criteria.

F. Denial of Assistance

Denial of assistance is in accordance with Chapter 3, Part III.

G. Family Obligations

Once the applicant becomes a resident, the resident must follow all of NHA rules including the Family Obligations in Chapter 5, Part I.

As a condition of HCV rental assistance, a Mainstream Voucher eligible family should receive the case management services from the CAN. A HUD-Mainstream family's' HCV assistance will not be terminated for failure to participate in case management. A CAN determination that the participant family no longer requires case management is also not grounds for termination of assistance.

If CAN case management services are no longer required for the family and the family wants to port to another jurisdiction, the family may be offered a tenant based HCV voucher if it is available.