

## LOTTERY FAQs

### **WHAT IS THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM (HCVP)?**

The HCVP is the federal program for assisting very low-income households to afford decent, safe and sanitary housing in the private rental market. Since this housing assistance is tenant-based, families choose their own housing. Participants in the HCVP pay approximately 30% of their income to their landlords and DHA pays the balance directly to the landlord.

### **HOW DOES A PERSON APPLY FOR THE HCVP?**

Due to high demand, the HCVP wait list is usually closed. When most of the names on the waiting list have been utilized, DHA opens the waiting list to the public through a lottery.

### **HOW DOES THE LOTTERY WORK?**

The lottery is conducted online, with lottery entries only accepted for a limited period of time through the DHA HCVP lottery website, [www.DHAVOUCHERS.ORG](http://www.DHAVOUCHERS.ORG). At the conclusion of the time period during which lottery entries are accepted, a random computer draw will take place from among all the entries. The lottery entries chose in this random computer draw will be place on the waiting list in the order in which they are drawn. Duplicate entries are eliminated, so no one has more than one chance at being selected. Each household member age 18 or older may submit an entry.

### **WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED TO RECEIVE A HOUSING VOUCHER?**

To be eligible, households must meet the following criteria:

- Must not exceed current very low-income limits
- Household members 18 years old and over must clear a criminal background check. In particular any drug related or violent criminal activity in the past three years could make you ineligible.
- Must not owe a debt to DHA or any other housing authority
- Must not have any previous terminations within the past 3 years from assisted housing such as Section 8 or Public Housing

### **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT INCOME LIMITS FOR THE VOUCHER PROGRAM?**

1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
\$28,250	\$32,250	\$36,300	\$40,300	\$43,550	\$46,750	\$50,000	\$53,200

### **WHAT ARE THE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND LIMITS?**

The HCVP will check the records for each family member 18 years old or older for three years prior for criminal and drug activity. Admission to the HCVP is prohibited if any household member has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamines or is subject to a lifetime sex offender registration requirement.

**ONCE ON THE WAITING LIST, WILL I AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A VOUCHER?**

No, placement on the waiting list does not guarantee that you will receive a voucher. As vouchers become available, names will be taken from the top of the waiting list to be qualified as eligible for the HCVP. Once qualified, those households will receive a voucher.

**CAN A SINGLE PERSON QUALIFY FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE OR IS THIS JUST FOR FAMILIES?**

Yes. A single person is considered a family.

**IF I HAVE A JOB, CAN I QUALIFY FOR THE HCVP?**

Yes. You can be employed and still qualify. Also, if you do not have any income you can still be eligible.

**IF I WAS TERMINATED FROM THE HCVP OR PUBLIC HOUSING CAN I ENTER THE LOTTERY?**

Yes, however depending on the date of termination and the reason for termination, you may be ineligible to receive assistance.

**CAN A PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENT APPLY FOR THE HCVP?**

Yes, a public housing resident can enter the lottery for a place on the HCVP waiting list. They will have an equal chance of being pulled in the lottery for the waiting list as all other entrants. Once on the waiting list, a public housing resident is subject to the same qualifications as anyone else on the waiting list.

**IF I DON'T LIVE IN DURHAM COUNTY CAN I ENTER THE LOTTERY?**

Yes. Residency in Durham County is not required for entry in the lottery or eligibility for the HCVP. However, those who are not residents of Durham County must lease a unit in Durham County for the first year they are in the program.

**ARE THERE ANY PREFERENCES THAT WOULD HELP ME RECEIVE A VOUCHER SOONER?**

Yes. There is a preference for applicants who reside or work in Durham County.