

Rent Assistance Options

Subsidized housing is a form of housing which is made accessible through government assistance to people who have difficulty finding and affording housing. Many governments have subsidy programs in place for housing, viewing safe, clean pleasant places to live as important for their citizens.

What options are there for me?

Housing Choice Voucher: The housing choice voucher program is the federal government's major program for assisting very low income families, the elderly and people with disabilities to afford decent, safe and sanitary housing in the private market that is administered locally by Public Housing Agencies (PHA's)

How it works...

- Eligibility is determined by the PHA's; during the application process the PHA will collect information such as the family income, assets, and family composition.
- A family is issued a housing voucher and is responsible for finding a suitable housing unit; the unit may include present residence.
- The participant is free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program and is not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects, so long as the owner agrees to rent through the program.
- The housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by PHA on behalf of the participating family; the family is now responsible to pay the difference (if any) between the actual rent charge and the amount subsidized.

Public Housing: Is another program geared towards assisting low income families, the elderly and people with disabilities with decent and safe rental housing. Public housing comes in all sizes and types from scattered single family houses to high-rise apartments.

How is eligibility determined ...

- Annual gross income
- Whether you qualify as elderly, a person with disabilities or as a low income family.
- U.S citizenship or eligible immigration status

If the PHA determines that you are eligible, your name will be put on a waiting list, unless the PHA is able to assist you immediately. The PHA will contact you once your name is reached on the waiting list. If it is determined that you are ineligible the PHA must say why and if you wish you can request an additional hearing. If you would like more information on the above programs and how to apply, contact your local Public Housing Authority or visit the HUD website www.hud.gov.