

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher FAQ

What is the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program?

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program is one of the federal government's largest programs for helping lower income families obtain decent, safe, and sanitary housing. In the HCV Program NBHA provides you with financial assistance so you can afford an apartment owned by a private landlord, offering families freedom of choice in finding a suitable unit within the local area.

How much assistance will I get?

If NBHA determines that you are eligible for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, it provides a document that says you are eligible to receive a certain amount of rental assistance each month. The amount of rental assistance that you receive depends upon your income and is intended to limit your portion of the rent payment to about 30% of your monthly income.

You may use your Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher assistance for your current apartment or move to another apartment. In either case, the landlord must be willing to sign a contract with NBHA and the apartment must meet a set of program standards (called the Housing Quality Standards) as well as local housing codes. The owner may check references to see if you are likely to be a responsible resident. Before you receive rental assistance, NBHA staff will fully explain what you should look for in an apartment under the program.

What information will I have to provide? Am I eligible?

As with the Public Housing Program, all of the information that you provide about your income will be carefully checked with employers, banks, and other sources of income before you are found to be eligible.

Former recipients of federal housing assistance who left a program owing back rent or other charges must pay the balance owed before being considered for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

A history of drug and/or alcohol related or violent criminal activity which might threaten the health, safety or peaceful existence of others may be grounds for disqualification from Section 8 Program eligibility.

To apply for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, print the pre-application, fill it out, sign it and return it to NBHA.