



Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List Opening

The St. Paul Public Housing Agency (PHA) will be opening its Housing Choice Voucher Program waiting list from Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 8:00 am through Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 12:00 pm. The Housing Choice Voucher Program, commonly known as the Section 8 Program, assists very low-income families with rental subsidies to landlords in the private rental market. The St. Paul PHA currently assists over 4,700 households with the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

For the first time, the St. Paul PHA is partnering with the Metropolitan Council's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Metro HRA) and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) on the advertising of the waiting list and applications to improve access to applicants. This partnership gives applicants the opportunity to apply for each of the three waiting lists with a similar online application. According to Dominic Mitchell, Housing Choice Voucher Program Director, "the partnership is an excellent example of housing authorities working together in order to best serve clients in need throughout the region."

The St. Paul PHA has also incorporated policy changes for a "homeless" preference, and broadened the definition of veterans to include those who are not eligible for assistance through the local VA. Mr. Mitchell stated he "is confident this preference expansion will help the St. Paul PHA to serve those homeless clients and veterans who need the assistance most." These policy changes will also assist with Governor Walz's commitment to ending veteran homelessness by effectively prioritizing Ramsey County's homeless veterans for voucher issuance.

Applicants can apply at www.waitlistcheck.com/STPAUL using a computer, tablet or smartphone with 24-hour access during the opening timeframe. 3,500 applicants will be placed on the St. Paul PHA's waiting list through a random drawing of all applications received. 95% of placements will be to applicants whose head of household or spouse lives, works, or attends school in St. Paul, or to applicants who have been deemed "homeless" through Ramsey County's Coordinated Entry System. The remaining 5% will be awarded to any other applicant. Once an applicant's name is drawn and they are determined eligible, they will have up to ninety (90) days to place the voucher with an owner on the private rental market. At that point, the client will typically pay 30% of their income towards their rent, and the PHA will pay the rest up to a reasonable market rent.

The PHA's waiting list last opened in September 2015, when the PHA received over 12,000 applicants for 3,500 spots. While the PHA anticipates receiving more applications this year, the PHA is still committing 3,500 spots with the goal of serving households within three to five years. According to Cynthia Yuen, Assistant Section 8 Programs Manager, "by limiting the waiting list to what the PHA can reasonably administer within three to five years, we are able to most efficiently serve current local needs."

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