

Questions and Answers regarding the Housing Choice Voucher Program

Question: How long can I expect for my application to be on the waiting list prior to receiving assistance through Housing Choice Voucher Program?

Answer: When you fill out your application we can give you an approximate idea regarding the wait time. Applications are pulled by date and time of application. Please notify the office in writing if your mailing address changes while you are on the waiting list. When your application comes to the top of the list we will send you a letter. If the letter is returned or you do not respond, your application will be dropped from the waiting list. If your name is dropped you must re-apply for the program.

Question: Where can I look for a unit that will qualify for a rent subsidy?

Answer: The City of Cedar Rapids- Housing Services office serves Linn and Benton counties.

Question: What is required once I have received my voucher and located a unit to rent?

Answer: Once you have received your voucher you may contact your case worker and confirm that you qualify for the unit you have selected. Bring the completed Request for Tenancy Approval and the Disclosure of Information on Lead Based Paint to the office. The unit needs to pass our HQS inspection before a rent subsidy to be sent to the landlord.

Question: How long must I wait to receive assistance with my rent?

Answer: When you turn in the completed paperwork and the unit is determined eligible. An HQS inspection will be scheduled with the landlord as soon as possible. If the unit needs repairs the landlord will be given 30 days to fix the repairs. When the unit passes the HQS inspection the landlord will be notified by the case worker. The landlord will set up the move in date with you after the unit passes inspection.

Question: How long will I be required to stay in my unit with the Section 8 program?

Answer: When you move in you will sign a one year lease and will be expected to stay in that unit for a year. The landlord will give you options after that first year regarding your options for lease renewal. If you decide to move when your lease expires a sixty-day notice is recommended. The notice to move is given on the first day of the month. You are responsible to give our office a copy and a copy goes to your landlord. When our office receives the notice your case manager will update your file and issue your voucher.

Question: How much can I expect to pay for my portion of rent?

Answer: We will calculate your portion of rent which is approximately 30 to 40% of your monthly adjusted gross income. You will be responsible to pay your rent portion to the landlord when rent is due. We will pay our portion of rent to the landlord on the 1st day of each month.

Question: How long can I receive a housing subsidy payment?

Answer: The housing subsidy payment will provide rent assistance as long as you are in compliance with the program rules and HUD funds are available.