

The HCV Connect

Program Updates, tools and tips to help with HCV Program administration.

October 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder for Quarterly Commitments and Obligations in VMS

Please report the MTW eligible activities that you have dedicated MTW HCV reserves towards in the Voucher Management System. For more information about reporting these activities please visit the [MTW HCV Resources Webpage](#).

New Streamlined Waiver Notice Published!

On October 12, 2023, HUD published [PIH Notice 2023-29](#), which provides a streamlined waiver process for PHAs interested in applying for an exception payment standard of up to 120 percent of the FY 2024 FMR/SAFMR, as applicable, or for the ability to apply increases in the payment standard earlier than annual reexamination.

PHAs that previously received an approved waiver under the predecessor notices must re-apply for a waiver under this new notice to use this flexibility with its FY 2024 FMR/SAFMR. PHAs that have never applied for either of these waivers are eligible to apply for a waiver under PIH Notice 2023-29.

NSPIRE Updates!

Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Notice and Checklist Out Now; Notice on Extension of HCV Programs Published

On September 29, 2023, HUD published [Notice PIH 2023-28](#), the Administrative Notice for the National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) for Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and Project-Based Voucher (PBV) programs. The notice details the administrative procedures of NSPIRE for HCV and PBV programs, as well as the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation (Mod Rehab) program and replaces Housing Quality Standards (HQS) as the inspection standards for these programs. Additionally, as recently announced in the [Federal Register](#), HUD extended the compliance date for HCV and PBV programs until October 1, 2024. This extension is available to all PHAs.

HUD made an optional checklist as an [Excel](#) and [PDF](#) document [available here](#) to PHAs that implement NSPIRE anytime on or after October 1, 2023. PHAs do not need to request HUD approval of continuing to use the prior HQS protocol until October 1, 2024, but should notify HUD of their NSPIRE implementation plans. Agencies that participated in the NSPIRE Demonstration can continue to use the NSPIRE app they already have to conduct inspections.

[Click here to learn more about NSPIRE and find additional resources](#)

New EHV Notice Available that Expands Eligible Uses of the Services Fees

On August 29th, HUD published [Notice PIH 2023-23](#), “Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV): Expanded Use of the EHV Services Fee.” The Notice amends Section 6.d of the EHV operations notice, Notice PIH 2021-15, and adds new eligible activities that can be funded with the EHV Services Fee. The new activities include the ability to fund rental arrears and an expansion of the definition of pre-tenancy services. For a full list of the expanded eligibility, please view the Notice.

[Click here to read the full Notice](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Additional Administrative Fees for SAFMR Payment Standard Adoption – Apply by October 31

[Notice PIH 2023-07](#) includes a provision for PHAs to apply for up to \$15,000 for reimbursement of costs associated with establishment of Small Area Fair Market Rent (SAFMR)-based Exception Payment Standards.

To learn more about how SAFMRs can help your HCV program, please view the [HCV Utilization Webinar: Considering Small Area FMRs](#). PHAs must **apply by October 31, 2023**.

EVENTS AND TRAININGS

Reminder of HCV Utilization Webinar Series

The third Thursday of every month we host an HCV Utilization Webinar. These webinars are intended to update HCV Program Administrators and stakeholders on recent program changes and highlight best practices in program administration.

Upcoming topics:

- [Examples of Leveraging Technology \(October 19, 2-3PM Eastern\)](#) Three PHA's will be presenting on their recent IT initiatives that have helped streamline operations at their PHA. The topics include AI integration, automated workflows for RFTAs and inspections, and a custom Housing Search Portal that assists in finding available units.
- [Mobility Best Practices \(November 16, 2-3PM Eastern\)](#)

Can't make a webinar? Don't worry. They are all recorded and posted on the [Past Trainings and Webinars site](#).

[Click Here to Register for October 19th](#)

HUD-VASH Boot Camps

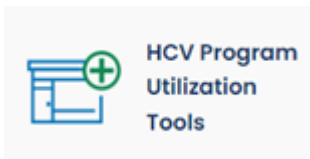
HUD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are hosting a series of HUD-VASH Boot Camps throughout the country. The two-day, in-person workshops are designed to improve collaboration, streamline systems and processes, and increase referrals and utilization for HUD-VASH programs. Workshops will be facilitated by VA and HUD Technical Assistance providers.

All PHAs administering HUD-VASH voucher programs will receive an invitation to register for a specific workshop in their region. Questions can be sent to VASH@hud.gov.

Tentative dates and locations (subject to change):

- Regions 7 & 8 – October 17-18 in Denver, CO
- Region 4 – October 24-25 in Orlando, FL
- Regions 1 & 2 – November 1-2 in Boston, MA
- Region 10 – November 14-15 in Seattle, WA
- Region 9 – December 5-6 in Los Angeles, CA
- Region 6 – December 12-13 (location TBD)

HCV UTILIZATION TOOL UPDATES



The HCV program requires program administrators to make regular adjustments to reflect funding levels and local market conditions. HUD provides resources on the [HCV Utilization Tools site](#) to help PHAs forecast the impact of different program adjustments and voucher issuance decisions. Here are recent HCV Utilization Tool updates:

The **estimated** 2024 PHA-specific inflation factors are posted in the Two-Year Tool.

We encourage all PHAs to utilize the Two-Year Tool to plan voucher issuance and other program decisions leading into 2024. There you will find the PHA-level inflation estimates that HUD is likely to use for 2024 funding allocations. As a reminder, the funding allocation is typically determined by using the PHA's 2023 leasing expenses (reported in the Voucher Management System) plus any new incremental voucher costs, multiplied by an inflation factor. Please contact your local Public Housing Field Office for additional assistance.

[Click here for a video that explains the annual funding process.](#)

NEWSLETTER REMINDER

PBV Radvisor Quarterly Newsletter



This quarterly newsletter is intended for Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Project Based Voucher (PBV) program administrators, property owners, and other stakeholders. This provides updates on program guidance changes, best practices, and friendly reminders of the unique RAD PBV program requirements.

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