

What is the waiting list selection procedure for the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program?

The waiting lists are open for new applicants periodically when the number of families listed does not provide a sufficient pool of applicants to meet the estimated funding availability. Hempstead Housing Authority (HHA) will advertise in the local media when the lists will be open for acceptance of new applications. Hempstead Housing Authority will select applications randomly through a computer generated lottery system. This allows fairness to all applicants during the open period.

Applications are ordered by preference points first, which include, veteran, living or working (or hired to work) within the Village of Hempstead (HHA jurisdiction) and working family (disabled and elderly receive credit for this preference). Applicants that have an equal number of valid preference claims are then ordered by the date and time of their application.

Please note, that once your application has been placed on the waiting list for the program applied for, new applications received at a future date will be ordered by preferences first then date.

The Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program provides eligible families with a voucher to rent a market unit under the terms and conditions provided by the Voucher program. HHA can assist a maximum of 475 families, depending on the available funding. Generally HHA may assist 15-50 turnover families per year, again depending on funding and other factors related to the program, i.e. people moving, other agencies billing the HA for families moving to a different jurisdiction, etc.

HHA does not determine the eligibility, i.e. the verification of the applicants answers on the application, until the application is within close proximity to the HA having available funding for the family.

Applicants often ask, "What number am I on the list?" HHA does not provide a specific number because of the preference point system established in the Administrative policies established in accordance with HUD regulations. The preferences are available to a family at any time, both at initial application or if their circumstances may change, so points do change. As an example, a family applies in 2005 and the Head of Household works in the Village of Hempstead, but the family lives in Freeport. This family would qualify for the local preference of "working in the jurisdiction." Before the HA has determined the family eligible the head of household changes employment and now works in Freeport. This family change would result in the application moving downward on the list. The opposite is also true and an upward movement on the waiting list could be realized if the head of household accepts employment within the HA jurisdiction after submitting their original application.