

Important Information For Section 8 Voucher Program Participants Who Want To Move Or Who Want To Give Up Their Section 8 Voucher

Part I: If You Want to Move with Your Section 8 Voucher:

If you want to move to another location with your Section 8 voucher, please read the following information.

What follows is a summary of your "mobility" rights as a participant in the Section 8 voucher program. This summary is not intended to substitute for a discussion with your program representative. If you want to move to another city or town with your Section 8 subsidy you should discuss your individual circumstances with your program representative as soon as you decide to move.

Where you Can Use Your Section 8 Voucher

If you have a Section 8 Voucher you can use it anywhere in the United States that has a public housing authority. Your program representative will contact any appropriate housing agency to arrange for your transfer.

Relocating to another Public Housing Agency's area

If you wish to move to a different community your program representative will first determine if you are income eligible in the community that you want to move to. They will advise you how to contact and request assistance from the new housing agency and will let the new agency know to expect you. The new housing agency will either issue you one of their own vouchers, or they will bill your current housing agency for your assistance. You will be required to follow the rules and policies of the new housing agency. Their rules may be somewhat different than the ones you are used to.

1. The current Public Housing Agency may refuse to issue another Voucher for a move to another unit, approve a new lease, or execute a new contract if:
2. You currently owe rent or other amounts to the Public Housing Agency or another Public Housing Agency in connection with Section 8.
3. As a current or previous participant on the Section 8 program, you have failed to pay back any Public Housing Agency for any amounts paid to an owner for rent or other amounts owed by you under your lease or for a vacant unit.
4. You have violated any Family obligation listed on your Voucher
5. You have engaged in drug related criminal activity or violent criminal activity.
6. You have breached certain repayment agreements with a Public Housing Agency
7. You have committed any fraud in connection with any federal housing program.
8. You were a participant in the Family Self Sufficiency Program and failed to comply with the terms of the family's contract of participation.

Preserve Eligibility and Move

If you want to move out of Massachusetts but do not know where you are going to live, you must notify the Public Housing Agency before leaving the unit you occupy. Provided you are still eligible for the Section 8 program, the Public Housing Agency may issue to you a new voucher which will maintain your eligibility for 90 days after you move from your subsidized unit. If you return to Massachusetts within 90 days you will still be able to use your voucher in Massachusetts. After 90 days your Section 8 voucher will expire, and then you must reapply for another Section 8 voucher and wait until your name reaches the top of the list.

NOTE: If you do not contact your program representative before you move and/or vacate your unit without giving the required notice to the owner, you will jeopardize your ability to retain your Section 8 eligibility for the 90 day period.

Part II: If You Want to Withdraw from the Section 8 Program/Give Up Your Voucher

What follows is important information about your rights as a Section 8 participant. This summary is not intended to be a substitute for a discussion with your program representative.

Note: If you voluntarily give up your Section 8 voucher (this is sometimes called withdrawing), you will be terminated from the Section 8 program. Once this happens, you will not be able to get your Section 8 voucher back.

In order to get assistance under the Section 8 program after you have given up your Section 8 subsidy, you will have to re-apply. The waiting list for applicants is often very long. As a result, it may take many months, or even years, before you could get another Section 8 voucher.

Before you give up your Section 8 voucher, you should know the following:

1. If you are thinking about giving up your Section 8 voucher because you want to move, you may be able to take your Section 8 voucher with you. Make sure you read Part I of this document.
2. If you are thinking about giving up your Section 8 voucher because you will not be able to use it soon enough (for example, because you need to enter the hospital for an extended period of time), you may be able to get your Section 8 subsidy "frozen".
3. If you are thinking about giving up your Section 8 voucher because your income is too high (for example, because you got married), you may be able to stay in the Section 8 program without receiving any subsidy for up to six months. If you again need a subsidy during that period (for example, because your income decreases), you may be able to get your subsidy reinstated.
4. If you are giving up your Section 8 voucher because you simply don't want to be in the Section 8 program, you can have your housing agency issue you a voucher good for sixty days, which may be extended for another thirty days, for a total of 90 days. If you change your mind before your voucher expires (that is, during the 60 - 90 days), you can use the voucher to look for housing. However, once the voucher expires, you will be out of the Section 8 program.

You should make sure that you are fully informed of your rights under the section 8 program before you give up your section 8 voucher.

Do not give up your section 8 voucher until you talk to your program representative and/or your nearest legal services organization to be sure you are fully informed.

CERTIFICATION OF RECEIPT

I hereby certify that I have received a copy of this document entitled, "Important Information for Section 8 Program Participants Who Want To Move Or Who Want to Give Up Their Section 8 Subsidy".

Tenant/Head of Household Signature

Date

Tenant/Head of Household Printed Name

I hereby certify that the Tenant was provided with a copy of this document entitled, "Important Information for Section 8 Program Participants Who Want To Move Or Who Want to Give Up Their Section 8 Subsidy".

By mail

In person

Program Representative Signature

Date

Program Representative Printed Name