

State Public Housing Admissions Priorities and Preferences

Applicants who are willing to meet the requirements of the A Better Life Program will be considered for admission first.

Admissions Preference	Program Description	Requirements
A Better Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant is willing as a condition of his/her Lease, to be required to go to work or attend School 30 hours per week. • Community service may substitute for the work/school requirement. • Required to participate in case management services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must participate in an informational session, run by the WHA, explaining program details and resident requirements.

In order to be considered for priority placement on any WHA state public housing waiting list, the applicant must submit documentation to support their priority request. Additionally, the applicant must submit a Housing Search form, which is included in the state public housing application package that substantiates the applicants search for alternative housing opportunities.

The WHA will select applicants off of its state public housing waiting lists using the following priorities which are listed below in the order of selection.

Priority	Cause(s)	Documentation Required
Priority #1 Homeless due to Displacement by Natural Forces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire not due to the negligence or intentional act of the applicant or household member • Earthquake, flood or other natural cause • Disaster declared or recognized under disaster relief laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Department report • Letter from a recognized disaster relief organization • Proof of residency of the affected property
Priority #2 Homeless due to Displacement by Public Action (Urban Renewal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has been displaced within 3 years due to urban renewal project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of official notification of land or property being taken by public agency involved • Proof of tenancy by landlord or property owner

<p>Priority #3 Homeless, Displacement by Public Action (Type B)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Displaced due to a public health agency's enforcement of Local or state health codes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of the official order of displacement (Declaration of Condemnation) due to code enforcement A written statement by you outlining the steps that you took to remedy the situation prior to the condemnation. Attach letters to the landlord, board of health notices or court records. Proof that you were a resident of the affected property such as a lease, rental agreement or rent receipts
<p>Priority #4 Emergency Case under the WHA Emergency Case Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeless and facing a significant and direct threat to life or safety Substandard housing that directly and substantially endangers or impairs the health, safety or well-being of the family Domestic Violence Severe medical emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation that applicant is homeless and living in a shelter, hotel and the reason for homelessness Substandard housing verified under Priority #3 Written certification of medical condition Documentation of abusive situation from police reports, restraining orders, court documents
<p>Priority #5 AHVP Participant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently living in a transitional housing program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of active participation in the Alternative Housing Voucher Program
<p>Preference Veterans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veteran with service connected disability Family of deceased veteran whose death is service connected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DD214 For deceased veteran copy of death certificate
<p>Preference Worcester Resident</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lives or works within City 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lease agreement Utility bill Pay stub Letter from employer