

HCVP PORTABILITY - IN

What is portability

“Portability” in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program refers to the process through which your family can transfer or “port” your rental subsidy when you move to a location outside the jurisdiction of the public housing agency (PHA) that first gave you the voucher when you were selected for the program (the initial PHA). The agency that will administer your assistance in the area to which you are moving is called the receiving PHA.

How do start the process of Porting-in to the WHA’s jurisdiction?

You must contact your current PHA and inform them of your desire to port-out to the Worcester Housing Authority’s (WHA) jurisdiction. Your PHA will determine if you are eligible to move, and inform you of their process to port you out of their jurisdiction. Your PHA will send the WHA the necessary documents that will provide the WHA information on your family and Housing Choice Voucher. You must then contact the WHA to receive a ‘Portability Package’ that you are required to fill out and submit to our office before we can process any leasing activity.

Contacting the receiving PHA

Nancy Kelly, Program Representative
Worcester Housing Authority
630 Plantation Street
Worcester, MA 01605

Kelly@WorcesterHA.org

t. 508-635-3127
f. 508-635-3191

Before Porting in to WHA, things you should know:

The WHA may have different subsidy standards than your current (initial) PHA. In other words, your PHA may have issued you a three-bedroom voucher, but the receiving WHA may, if appropriate for your family, issue you a two-bedroom voucher. This includes processing reasonable accommodation requests that are necessary for qualified individuals with disabilities. The payment standards of the WHA may be different from your PHA. Payment standards are what determine the amount of the rent that the PHA will pay on your behalf. If the WHA’s payment standards are lower than your initial PHA, then the portion of the rent you pay may be more than what you were paying at your initial PHA.

The WHA will re-screen you using our own policies (including conducting a CORI), which may be different than your initial PHA's policies and could result in the WHA denying your request to move to the WHA's jurisdiction. This will assist you in determining if the receiving PHA's policies might prevent you from moving to their jurisdiction.

Once all the necessary paperwork is complete:

Once the Portability Package is complete, the WHA will issue you a voucher and extend your current voucher by thirty (30) days.

When you submit a request for tenancy approval (RFTA), the time on your voucher will stop until you are notified in writing whether the unit is approved or denied. The RFTA is the form you will submit to the WHA once you find a unit, so that the WHA can determine whether you may rent that unit under the program. If you decide that you do not want to lease a unit in the WHA's area, the WHA will return your voucher to the initial PHA. The initial PHA is not required to, but may, extend the term of your voucher so that you may search for a unit in the initial PHA's jurisdiction or port to another jurisdiction.

Keep in touch:

The WHA recommends that you let the WHA know if you were successful in leasing up in the WHA's jurisdiction.