

The highest preferences are given to Worcester residents (live or work in the City) and to veterans

- **Resident:** A member who is listed on the application who lives, works or will work in the Worcester area. Documentation required: Lease agreement, utility bill, pay stub, and/or letter from employer.
 - **Veteran:** A member who is listed on the application who is a veteran with service-connected disability; a family of a deceased veteran whose death was service-connected; or other veteran that meets the definition of a housing authority's administrative plan. Documentation required: DD214 for veteran and if veteran is deceased, a copy of his/her death certificate.
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The following additional preferences are weighted equally

Emergency Preference Definitions

- **Displacement by Disaster:** A member who is listed on the application who has been displaced by a disaster recognized by the Federal government, which extensively damaged or destroyed their housing, ex. fire, flood or other natural disaster. Documentation required: Red Cross, FEMA, Fire Department, and/or Board of Health.
- **Displacement by Action of Housing Owner:** A member who is listed on the application who has or will have to vacate by a date certain because of owner action, and through no fault of your own. Documentation required: Certification by the owner or owner's agent.
- **Displacement by Substandard Housing including Homelessness:** A member who is listed on the application who lacks adequate shelter and the health and safety, or well-being of the family is endangered; or a member who lacks fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or has primary nighttime residence that is: supervised public or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living accommodations; a public or private place not designated or normally used as regular sleeping place for humans. Documentation required: condemnation letter from the board of health or certification from the shelter or agency. All cases must be recent (within the past 6 months). **Must provide Proof of No-Fault Loss of Housing for example:**
 - Copy of summary process summons & complaint or,
 - Copy of court decision and execution from court or,
 - Copy of foreclosure document and/or vacate notification or,
 - And, Narrative reason with supporting documentation
- **Displacement because of Domestic Violence:** A member who is listed on the application who is a victim of domestic violence which has occurred recently or is of continuing nature and as a result of this, will be or has been displaced. Documentation required: Certification of displacement from the local police department, social service agency, or court of law, clergyman, physician, or shelter providing shelter to victims of domestic violence that the domestic violence occurred recently or is of continuing nature.
- **Displacement to Avoid Reprisals:** A member who is listed on the application who has provided information to a law enforcement agency, and the agency recommends alternative housing to avoid a risk of violence against the family. Documentation required: Certification by the law enforcement agency.
- **Displacement by Hate Crimes:** A member who is listed on the application will be or has been displaced because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or family status. Documentation required: Certification by a law enforcement agency.
- **Displacement by Inaccessibility of Unit:** A member who is limited by mobility or other impairment to access their apartment. Documentation required: Certification by a doctor and landlord stating he is unable to make the reasonable accommodation.
- **Rent Burdened 50% of Income:** A member who can document that they are paying more than 50% of their monthly gross family adjusted income (adjustments for dependent allowance, medical expenses, etc.) toward monthly housing costs (rent and utilities). Documentation required: providing a lease or rental agreement and 3 most recent months of rent receipts; Utility (gas/oil and/or electric) bills or printouts directly from the utility companies; household income for all family member(s) residing in dwelling unit.