

HCV PORTABILITY - OUT

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-out?

You must notify the WHA that you would like to port-out and to which area you are moving. The WHA will determine if you are eligible to move. For example, the WHA will determine whether you would be moving out of your unit in accordance with your lease. If eligible to move, you must complete the **Request for Portability Move** form and submit it to the WHA. If you are currently assisted, you must give your landlord notice of your intent to vacate in accordance with your lease. The WHA will issue you a voucher (if it has not done so already) and send all relevant paperwork to the receiving PHA *the housing authority that you wish to port to).

Contacting the receiving PHA

Your Program Representative will let you know how and when to contact the receiving PHA. Your Program Representative must give you enough information so that you know how to contact the receiving PHA. If there is more than one PHA that administers the HCV program where you wish to move, you may choose the receiving PHA. The initial PHA will give you the contact information for the PHAs that serve the area. If you prefer, you may request that the initial PHA selects the receiving PHA for you.

Generally, the initial PHA is not required to give you any other information about the receiving PHAs, but you may wish to find out more details when contacting them (such as whether the receiving PHA operates a Family Self-Sufficiency or Homeownership program).

Before Porting out, things you should know:

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

The receiving PHA may re-screen you using their own policies, which may be different than the initial PHA's policies and could result in them denying your request to move. When contacting the receiving PHA, you may want to ask whether they re-screen families moving into their area under portability and what are their policies for termination or denial of HCV assistance. This will assist you in determining if the receiving PHA's policies might prevent you from moving to their jurisdiction.

You should manage the move so that you have enough time to arrive at the receiving PHA before the initial PHA voucher expires; otherwise, you may lose your assistance.

Once at the receiving PHA:

The receiving PHA will issue you a voucher to search for a unit in its jurisdiction. Your voucher must be extended by 30 days from the expiration date on the voucher issued by the initial PHA. When you submit a request for tenancy approval, the time on your voucher will stop until you are notified in writing whether the unit is approved or denied. The request for tenancy approval is the form you will submit to the receiving PHA once you find a unit, so that the receiving PHA 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 area, the receiving PHA 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 Receiving PHA's jurisdiction.

WHA's Port-out contact information:

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