



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

Special Attention of:

Directors of HUD Regional and Field
Offices of Public Housing;
Agencies that Administer the
Housing Choice Voucher Program

Notice PIH 2023-09(HA)

Issued: April 10, 2023

Expires: This notice remains in effect until
amended, superseded, or rescinded.

Cross References: *Section 8 Housing
Choice Vouchers: Revised Implementation
of the HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive
Housing Program* published in the *Federal
Register* on September 27, 2021.

Subject: 2023 Mid-Year Registration of Interest for HUD-VASH Vouchers

1. Purpose. This notice announces the availability of approximately \$94.4 million in HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH). HUD anticipates that this funding will support approximately 11,000 new HUD-VASH vouchers. These vouchers are administered in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and enable homeless veterans and their families to access affordable housing with an array of supportive services.

HUD-VASH vouchers are authorized under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937, as modified by the requirements in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328, approved December 29, 2022) (the 2023 Act). Under PIH Notice 2022-26, \$79 million was made available to interested public housing agencies (PHAs), with \$25 million being awarded under that notice. The remaining \$54.4 million is being made available under this notice, along with the \$50 million appropriated in the 2023 Act. In accordance with the 2023 Act, up to \$10 million of the appropriated funds may be utilized for additional fees established by and allocated pursuant to a method determined by the Secretary for administrative and other expenses of PHAs in administering HUD-VASH vouchers. HUD will make all \$10 million for additional fees available to PHAs administering a HUD-VASH program and anticipates issuing guidance on the availability of funding and application process by Fall 2023.

2. Background. The HUD-VASH program combines HUD Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the VA at its medical centers (VAMC) and community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) or by VA contractors or VA designated entities. The VA facility refers all eligible HUD-VASH families to the PHA.

Generally, the HUD-VASH program is administered in accordance with 24 CFR Section 982 and 983 (in cases where VASH vouchers are project-based). However, the Act allows HUD (in consultation with the VA) to waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation that HUD administers in connection with this program in order to effectively

deliver and administer HUD-VASH assistance (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective delivery and administration of such voucher assistance.

All funds not expended following allocation through this notice will be made available via an additional funding opportunity in FY 2023.

Waivers and alternative requirements for HUD-VASH are detailed in the Revised Operating Requirements published in the *Federal Register* on September 27, 2021. 86 FR 53207. This and other documents pertinent to the program can be found on the HUD-VASH website at:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/vash

3. Summary of Allocation Process. Under the Act, HUD-VASH funding must be awarded based on geographic need, PHA administrative performance, and other factors specified by HUD. Consistent with the requirements of the Act, HUD will award tenant-based HUD-VASH vouchers based on geographic need to PHAs who self-identify to HUD their interest in receiving an allocation. Through the FY 2023 Mid-Year HUD-VASH ROI, HUD makes available FY2022 carryover funds to interested, eligible PHAs. The awards will follow a two-step process:

- a. Eligible PHAs will respond to this notice via the Registration of Interest link located on the HUD-VASH webpage:
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/vash.

Please note that signed Letters of Support from partnering VAMCs are required and should be uploaded at the time of PHA submission. See Section 7 of this notice for detailed instructions.

- b. Based on a relative need formula, using VA Gap Analysis data, registered PHAs will receive an invitation to apply for a specific number of HUD-VASH vouchers.

PHA administrative performance will be determined as detailed in Section 6 of this notice and based on their demonstrated HUD-VASH leasing capacity. The leasing capacity criteria ensures that PHAs in communities where there is the greatest likelihood that homeless veterans will be housed promptly receive HUD-VASH vouchers. The leasing capacity, or utilization threshold, criteria is explained in detail in Section 6.a. of this notice.

4. Registration of Interest Due Date. The FY23 HUD-VASH Electronic Registration of Interest form, located on the HUD-VASH webpage (https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/vash), must be submitted no later than midnight in the time zone of the PHA on Monday, June 5, 2023. See Section 7 for all Registration of Interest Requirements.

5. Eligible Applicants. PHAs currently administering an HCV program that meet the threshold criteria detailed in Section 6 below are eligible to submit a Registration of Interest under this notice.

PHAs without a current HUD-VASH program are not subject to the utilization threshold requirements outlined in Section 6.a of this notice and are eligible to submit a Registration of Interest if the other threshold requirements in Section 6.c. are met.

NOTE: Non-profit agencies that only administer HCV Mainstream vouchers are not eligible to submit a Registration of Interest under this Notice.

6. Threshold Criteria. The following threshold factors must be met in order for a PHA to be eligible to receive an award of HUD-VASH vouchers under this notice.

- a. The threshold criteria described in this section applies only to PHAs with an existing HUD-VASH Program of greater than 15 existing HUD-VASH vouchers.
 - (1) PHAs must have a current HUD-VASH voucher unit utilization rate of 70 percent or higher as of January 2023, or as of the most recent comprehensive set of validated data available to HUD at the time of award, whichever is higher.

NOTE: Unit utilization rate will be defined as Voucher Management System (VMS) reported HUD-VASH January 2023 Unit Months Leased (UML) divided by total HUD-VASH vouchers awarded to date. (Please note that this is total awards, not effective awards).

PHAs can review the VMS data HUD uses to establish the utilization threshold criteria by accessing the public data dashboard located at the following link: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/dashboard.

The following is only for PHAs with greater than 15 HUD-VASH vouchers that do not meet the general threshold requirement outlined above. These PHAs may be eligible for an exception to the utilization criteria due to an intent to PBV.

- (2) PHAs who have initiated the solicitation process to project-base HUD -VASH vouchers in accordance with 24 CFR 983 that do not meet the 70 percent utilization threshold criteria above may be eligible under the Project Basing Exception. If the required criteria is met, the PHA's HUD-VASH units "formally identified" for project-based vouchers (PBV) will be removed from the PHA's "total HUD-VASH vouchers awarded to date" denominator when calculating HUD-VASH utilization rate. The resulting utilization rate must still be above 70 percent. All types of PBV units are eligible to be included: PHA-owned units, existing units, newly constructed units and substantially rehabilitated units.

Per Notice PIH 2017-21, Attachment C, PHAs must submit to HUD to (pbvsubmission@hud.gov) PBV information (outlined in Attachment C, 2, a) no later than 14 calendar days prior to undertaking of actions outlined in Attachment C, 2, b).

To be eligible for this exception, PHAs must upload a copy of their confirmation email received from pbvsubmission@hud.gov in response to the PHA's notification of intent to project base HUD-VASH vouchers documenting review and approval of required information with their Registration of Interest. All confirmation emails must be dated on or before Monday, June 5, 2023.

Further, if a PHA is uncertain about whether or not it meets any of the above threshold criteria, the PHA may send an inquiry to VASH@hud.gov.

- b. PHAs, as required by the Act, must demonstrate the capacity to successfully administer the HUD-VASH program. In addition to the utilization threshold, PHAs must not have any major unresolved program management findings from an Inspector General audit, HUD management review, or Independent Public Accountant (IPA) audit for the PHA's HCV program, or other significant program compliance issues that were not resolved, or in the process of being resolved, as determined by HUD, prior to this notice's application deadline. Additionally, applicants must resolve all outstanding civil rights matters to HUD's satisfaction prior to this notice's Registration of Interest deadline, provided that all applicable legal processes have been satisfied.

If a PHA is unsure whether these criteria are met, they should contact the PHA's HUD Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) Field Office point of contact.

- c. All Registrations of Interest must include a signed Letter of Support from the partnering VA facility.

7. Registration of Interest Requirements. PHAs must consult with their partnering VA facility to discuss their intentions of submitting a Registration of Interest and request a Letter of Support for HUD-VASH vouchers under this notice. Letters of support from the VA do not need to include a specific number of vouchers requested because the number of vouchers offered to a PHA will be determined by a formula.

- a. PHAs must complete the FY23 HUD-VASH Electronic Registration of Interest form located on the HUD-VASH webpage at , https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/vash, identifying that they are interested in receiving HUD-VASH vouchers. If a PHA partners with more than one VA facility, the PHA must complete a separate Registration of Interest form with the signed letter of support for each partnering VA facility. Please note that at the time of completion, the PHA Point of Contact will need the signed Letter of Support from the PHA's partnering VAMC/CBOC).

- (1) PHAs will be asked to enter information on the PHA (PHA name and code, the PHA Executive Director's Name and email, the name of your partnering VAMC (or CBOC)), information from the partnering VA (the Veterans Integrated Services (VISN) number, and the facility's Station ID (For example: Birmingham VA Medical Center, VISN 7, Station 521).
 - (2) Electronic Registration of Interest Form submissions must include an upload of a signed Letter of Support from your partnering VA facility. Registration of Interest submissions without a valid, corresponding letter of support uploaded will not be curable and will not be considered for an award.
- b. PHAs expressing interest under the Project Basing Exception must upload a copy of the correspondence received from pbvsubmission@hud.gov in response to the PHA's notification of intent to project base HUD-VASH vouchers documenting review and approval of required information and notice of its intent to project-base HUD-VASH vouchers. All Registrations of Interest must be transmitted no later than midnight in the time zone of the PHA on Monday, June 5, 2023.
- (1) After successful completion of the FY2 HUD-VASH Registration of Interest form, the sender will receive a "submission confirmation" email, confirming receipt. *If you do not receive an email confirming receipt, your submission was not received, and the agency will not be considered for an award.*
 - (2) Emails, faxes and hard copy submissions will not be accepted. Note: receipt of a "submission confirmation" message does not validate whether or not the Registration of Interest is complete. Please review the notice in its entirety to ensure all requirements are met.
- c. PHAs are encouraged to consult with the Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency to discuss their intention of submitting a Registration of Interest. CoC planning is a critical tool in identifying resources, assessing a community's capacity, and developing solutions to challenges that homeless veterans and their families experience. PHAs are not required to provide a letter of support from the lead CoC or CoC partnering agencies.

8. Formula Used for Allocating HUD-VASH Vouchers. The allocation of HUD-VASH vouchers will be awarded based on a relative need formula using the VA Gap Analysis. The VA Gap Analysis integrates data from both VA and HUD, as well as feedback from community partners. Specifically, it incorporates annual Point-in-Time count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data using a crosswalk of VAMC and Continuum of Care jurisdictions. It takes into consideration utilization of existing resources to estimate current and future need at each VAMC.

9. Minimum/Maximum Number of Vouchers. HUD is establishing a minimum and maximum number of vouchers offered under this notice. Any single PHA may be invited to apply for a minimum of five (5) vouchers and up to five hundred (500) vouchers under this

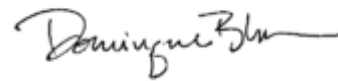
notice; this is applicable to both new and existing administrators of the HUD-VASH program. Additionally, each VAMC will be capped at one thousand (1,000) vouchers.

10. Invitation of PHAs. Selected PHAs will receive an invitation via email to apply for a specific number of HUD-VASH vouchers. This number is the maximum number of vouchers being offered. PHAs may choose to apply for fewer vouchers. Additional instructions will be included in the invitation letter. HUD may award any remaining HUD-VASH funds via invitation to additional PHAs at any time based on availability of funding and geographic need as required by the 2023 Act.

11. Use of HUD-VASH Assistance Project-Based Vouchers. PHAs may use HUD-VASH assistance for PBVs at any time after award, provided all the established PBV regulations and requirements are followed. No additional HUD Headquarters approvals are required for project basing HUD-VASH vouchers beyond the normal process. For additional guidance, PHAs should review PIH Notice 2017-21, Implementation Guidance: Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016 (HOTMA) — Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and Project-Based Voucher (PBV) Provisions.

12. Information Contact. All inquiries about this notice should be directed to VASH_ROI@hud.gov.

13. Paperwork Reduction Act. The information collection requirements contained in this notice have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C 3520). In accordance with the PRA, HUD may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number. The active information collections contained in this notice have been approved under the PRA OMB Control Number 2577-0169.



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Public and Indian Housing