



# Emergency Housing Vouchers

June 9, 2021

# What are Emergency Housing Vouchers

- The American Rescue Plan (ARP) of 2021 appropriated \$5 billion for the Emergency Housing Vouchers
- 70,000 were awarded to apprx. 700 Housing Authorities
- Sacramento received 484 vouchers. Potential to receive more
- Separate from Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program

# Emergency Housing Vouchers

EHV eligibility is limited to households **(individuals and families)** who are:

- Homeless;
- At-risk of homelessness;
- Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; and
- Recently homeless, and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent homelessness or risk of housing instability.

# EHV Partnerships

- All referrals must come through the Continuum of Care's (CoC's) Coordinated Entry (CE) System or from a Victim Service Provider
- Focus on advancing equity and inclusion
- Work in partnership with domestic violence victim providers
- CoC's are responsible for determining whether the family qualifies under one of the four eligibility categories

# Housing Search Assistance

- Housing Authorities **must** ensure housing search assistance is made available to EHV families during their initial housing search.
- Examples may include, but are not limited to:
  - Assistance completing paperwork
  - Provide transportation to search for a housing unit
  - Advocate for the household to the landlord
  - Address discrimination issues based on race, ethnicity, disability etc.
  - Market the incentive program
  - Find appropriate housing units

# Enhanced Assistance

Housing Authority will develop a Landlord/Applicant Incentive Program

Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Owner Incentive fees
- Application fees
- Holding fees
- Security deposit assistance
- Utility deposit assistance
- Tenant readiness
- Moving expenses
- Renters insurance



# Key Elements of Program

- HUD wants households **leased up** within **4 to 6 months**
- Incentive ~ Sacramento receives **additional homeless vouchers**

## Caution:

- Within “reasonable time period” HUD could **redistribute unleased vouchers** and provide to other housing authorities
- Within 12 months all unissued vouchers will be **revoked and reallocated**

# Initial Lease Up

**GOAL: to lease 484 homeless households in 6 months!**

- Must find homeless households quickly
- Have robust pipeline of referrals from CE/domestic violence victim providers
- Link homeless household to staff immediately to assist with intake/landlord paperwork
- Help household find a suitable unit
- Link household to ongoing services for stability (preferable)



Thank you!

# Emergency Housing Vouchers

Sacramento Continuum of Care



# Overview

- Targeted subpopulations
- Prioritization factors
- Referral benchmarks

# Targeted Subpopulations

| Eligible Category  | Prioritized Subpopulations  |
|--|---|
| 1 - Experiencing Homelessness  | <b>Chronically homeless, Literally homeless</b>   |
| 2 - At-risk of Experiencing Homelessness   | <b>Seniors (62+)</b>  |
| 3 - Fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking                             | <b>Survivor System</b>  |
| 4 - Recently homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability | <b>Move-on eligible residents in current PSH programs (not limited to CoC-only); Recently homeless eligible residents in RRH programs</b> |



# Eligibility Requirements

In addition to meeting specific eligibility requirements applicable to each category, a household is considered ***ineligible***, if:

- Any member of the household is subject to a lifetime registration requirement on a state sex offender registration program
- Any member of the household has ever been convicted of manufacturing methamphetamines on the premises of federally assisted housing
- There are no members of the household who are U.S. citizens or noncitizens with eligible immigration status



# EHV Assessment

Each factor is worth one point. A household would be prioritized based on the highest score:

- No or a very low source of income
- Previously experienced homelessness (HMIS)
- Long-term disability as defined by the HEARTH Act that impedes their ability to work
- History of eviction
- Other housing barriers, such as a criminal background (excluding lifetime 290s)
- Is able to meet most basic needs independently and does not require long-term supportive services OR is receiving sufficient CBO services to meet their needs

Other factors to consider:

- Recently homeless: rent burden if household were to remain in their unit when assistance ends



# Subpopulation: Chronically Homeless

- Reasoning: Targets existing CoC and CES programs, who serve the most vulnerable
- Prioritization factors: Connected to ongoing supportive services, COVID-19 prioritization factors
- Referral sources: Behavioral Health Programs, Health Homes, FSRP, and other programs serving this population
- Estimated number of **weekly** referrals: 25+ (depends on eligible supportive services)





# Subpopulation: Literally Homeless

- Reasoning: Targets existing CoC and CES programs
- Prioritization factors: *EHV assessment questions*
- Referral sources: Varies
- Estimated number of **weekly** referrals: 30



# Subpopulation: At-Risk Seniors (62+ years old)

- Reasoning: (1) Seniors are prioritized within the CES temporary COVID-19 prioritization schema. (2) There is a lack of sufficient dedicated housing services for seniors and seniors are ineligible for mainstream vouchers.
- Prioritization factors- *EHV assessment questions*
- Referral sources- Varies
- Estimated number of **weekly** referrals: 5

# Subpopulation: Survivors

- Reasoning: (1) Victim service providers have not been well-connected to the homeless response system, despite the intersectionality between intimate partner violence and homelessness. (2) EHV notice requires pathway(s) for all survivors.
- Prioritization factors: Severity of needs questions, *EHV assessment questions*
- Referral sources: My Sister's House, Opening Doors, WEAVE, CASH, IRC, St. John's Women's Shelter, and possibly others.
- Estimated number of **weekly** referrals: 25



# Subpopulation: PSH Move-on Ready

- Reasoning: Creates more flow through coordinated entry PSH units for most vulnerable populations
- Prioritization factors: Do you still need supportive services?
  - Trauma Informed / Motivational Interviewing questions – Are you ready?
- Referral sources: All permanent supportive housing programs
- Estimated number of **weekly** referrals: 15



# Subpopulation: RRH Bridge to EHV

- Reasoning: Prevents returns to homelessness
- Prioritization factors: *EHV assessment questions*
- Referral sources: All RRH programs (?)
- Estimated number of **weekly** referrals: ???



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- Long-term disability as defined by the HEARTH Act that impedes their ability to work
- History of eviction
- Other housing barriers, such as a criminal background (excluding lifetime 290s)
- Is able to meet most basic needs independently and does not require long-term supportive services OR is receiving sufficient CBO services to meet their needs

Other factors to consider:

- Recently homeless: rent burden if household were to remain in their unit when assistance ends



# Prioritization and Referral

- Within each of the six subpopulations, clients will be prioritized based on the highest assessment score (as needed)
- Clients with the same score will be ranked by length of time homeless, and then first come first served (as needed)
- Referrals will take place through HMIS (anonymous profiles will be used for Survivor System referrals)





# Weekly Benchmarks – 100 Referrals / week

**A minimum of 100 households MUST be referred to SHRA on a weekly basis.**

*We must balance weekly referral requirements with our target subpopulation goals to achieve equitable access. If there are not enough eligible clients within a subpopulation to complete the target number of referrals per week, eligible households within the other subpopulations will be referred. The CES team will closely monitor the number of referrals coming from each subpopulation and open an additional 25 referral slots for a specific subpopulation as necessary to meet minimum subpopulation goals and 100 referrals per week.*



# Subpopulation Benchmark Goals – Total Referrals

| Subpopulation                      | Number of Total Referrals |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chronically Homeless (w/ services) | 10% minimum (no cap)      |
| PSH Move On                        | 10% minimum (no cap)      |
| Literally Homeless                 | 10% minimum               |
| Survivors                          | 10% minimum               |
| At-Risk Seniors                    | 5% minimum                |
| RRH Bridge                         | 5% minimum                |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>494 vouchers</b>       |

