

**Frequently Asked Questions
Regarding the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for
Rental Assistance for Non-Elderly Persons with Disabilities**

Definitions

1. *The definition of elderly family in Section (I)(D)(1) of the NOFA includes “two or more elderly persons living together, or one or more elderly persons living with one or more persons determined under the PHA Plan to be essential to their care or well being.” Does the definition of non-elderly disabled family also include: “two or more non-elderly disabled persons living together, or one or more non-elderly disabled persons living with one or more persons determined under the PHA Plan to be essential to their care or well being” as described in 24CFR Part 5.403?*

Answer: Yes. The definition of non-elderly disabled family is the same as the definition for disabled family in 24 CFR Part 5.403, but with the exclusion of families whose head, spouse or sole member is 62 years or older.

Experience Criteria

2. *If a PHA was previously awarded Mainstream, Certain Developments , Designated Housing, or Project Access vouchers many years ago but when the ACC ended, absorbed these vouchers into their general voucher portfolio, does the PHA still meet the experience criteria listed under section (IV)(B)(e)(3) of the NOFA?*

Answer: Yes.

3. *Are VASH vouchers are considered a special purpose voucher allocation listed in section (IV)(B)(e)(3)? Does administering VASH vouchers meet the experience criteria listed under section (IV)(B)(e)(2)?*

Answer: VASH vouchers are not considered special purpose vouchers for the purpose of demonstrating PHA experience under section IV(B)(e)(3) nor does administering VASH vouchers count as operating a non-HCV program that serves non-elderly disabled families (section IV(B)(e)(2)). However, under section IV(B)(e)(1), VASH vouchers are counted when determining PHA’s percentage of HCVs that are used by non-elderly disabled families, if the family is a non-elderly disabled family.

4. *In the past, some non-profit disability organizations were awarded Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities vouchers. Are these non-profits eligible to apply for vouchers under this NOFA?*

Answer: No. See HUD Response to the first Comment in the NOFA.

Category 1 Application

5. *What level of detail is required on section D of HUD form 52515 to describe support services for a category 1 application? Are PHAs applying for Category 1 vouchers required to partner with a service agency or can the PHA demonstrate that it can provide services directly?*

Answer: PHAs applying for Category 1 vouchers are not required to partner with a service agency, nor are they required to demonstrate that they can provide services directly. A PHA applying for Category 1 vouchers must only describe in full detail the resources that are available for supportive services for non-elderly disabled families.

6. *Can Category 1 vouchers be targeted to one subgroup of non-elderly disabled households that are eligible for the services provided by the partner agency? For example if a PHA partners with a local mental health authority in an application for Category 1 vouchers, can the vouchers be given to only those households?*

Answer: Although PHAs may establish and apply preferences among non-elderly disabled families in Category 1, in accordance with regulatory requirements, PHAs may not adopt a preference for admission of persons with a specific disability.

Category 2 Application

7. *If a PHA is awarded Category 2 vouchers, can it limit referrals of applicants to only those non-elderly disabled households that are eligible for services from the identified state partner agency?*

Answer: Yes, since it will be the responsibility of the partnering agency to refer eligible families to the PHA for voucher assistance.

8. *Can a PHA partner with more than one partnering agency? If so, how do they describe this partnership in the application? Must a PHA in an MFP state partner with the MFP agency?*

Answer: The NOFA does not specify that PHAs partner with only one partnering resource agency. The NOFA only requires that the partnering resource agency be the relevant state health and human service and/or Medicaid agency, and that for individuals transitioning under the MFP demonstration, the partnering resource agency is the MFP program within the State Medicaid program. If a PHA in a state with the MFP demonstration would like to partner with the MFP program agency for persons transitioning under the MFP demonstration, and also with a different state health agency for those persons NOT covered under the MFP demonstration, this would be accepted, as long as the total number of vouchers requested by the PHA does not exceed the combined number that both agencies are projecting will be needed to assist transitioning individuals over a 12-month period. To describe these partnerships, the PHA must identify the agencies, and describe how individual referrals will be made by each agency. Additionally, for persons not transitioning under the MFP demonstration, the PHA must describe the supportive services resources that each agency will make available to the transitioning individuals.

9. *Non-MFP state: Must a PHA partner with the state Health and Human Services or Medicaid agency? Can it partner with local agencies that provide support services for the Category 2 target population?*

Answer: For PHAs applying for Category 2 vouchers for individuals not transitioning under the MFP demonstration, the PHA must partner with the relevant state health and human service and/or Medicaid agency for carrying out a state-sponsored institutional transitional program comparable to MFP that includes dedicated supportive services funded through the State Medicaid program and/or state appropriations.

Outreach and Waiting List

10. *If a PHA does not have eligible applicants on its waiting list and has to open its waiting list, what type of outreach is required when a PHA opens the wait list? Can a PHA only conduct outreach to those agencies that may serve eligible Category 1 or Category 2 applicants?*

Answer: A PHA would have to open its waiting list to Category 1 families if it did not have a sufficient number of these families on its waiting list. The waiting list would be open in accordance with 24 CFR Section 982.206 which requires public notice. Applications can be limited to non-elderly disabled families. However, outreach cannot be limited to only agencies that serve non-elderly disabled families. Outreach for Category 2 families is not required since these families will be referred to the PHA's waiting list by the partnering agency.

11. *If a PHA applies for and is awarded Category 1 vouchers and decides to implement a waiting list preference for non-elderly people with disabilities transitioning from nursing homes or other institutions, can this preference apply to only the Category 1 vouchers that the PHA was awarded or must it apply to the PHA's entire HCV waiting list?*

Answer: The PHA can establish a limited preference for the number of vouchers the PHA intends to use for transitioning families out of its Category 1 award.

Forms

12. *How do PHAs submit the HUD Form 52515, which is not a "savable" pdf form?*

Answer: PHAs should fill out the form HUD 52515, then print and scan the form, and attach the form to the application as an attachment to the SF-424. There are also instructions for faxing the form in the General Section of the NOFA. The forms should be faxed to 800-HUD-1010 or 215-825-8798 with the form HUD-96011 facsimile transmittal cover page.

13. *Section IV(B)(5) of the NOFA states that the PHA must submit Form HUD-2991, Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan, or a copy of the signed PHA Certification of Compliance for its current Annual PHA Plan, if applicable. Please clarify if the PHA is required to submit either Form HUD-2991, Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan or a copy of the signed PHA Certification of Compliance for its current Annual PHA Plan.*

Answer: The PHA is required to submit either Form HUD-2991, Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan, or a copy of the signed PHA Certification of Compliance for its current Annual PHA Plan.

Portability

14. *Will there be portability of Category 1 vouchers?*

Answer: Yes.

15. *Will there be portability for Category 2 vouchers? Can the PHA limit the voucher holders to living in a certain area/state for Category 2 vouchers if there are limits to the service area of the partnering state service agency?*

Answer: A Category 2 voucher holder cannot be denied portability; however, if the partnering service agency determines that there are limits to services that will be provided in the area where the family wishes to move that would put the family at risk of losing their housing, the partnering service agency should counsel that family of those risks.

Leasing

16. *What is the lease-up time frame for Category 1 and Category 2 vouchers?*

Answer: For Category 1 vouchers, the Department expects the vouchers to be leased-up within three months of the effective date of the ACC. For Category 2 vouchers, the Department expects partnering agencies to refer eligible families and for PHAs to lease-up these families as quickly as possible. However, given the known difficulties of finding and securing housing for this population, the Department will allow PHAs up to twelve months from the effective date on the ACC to lease up Category 2 vouchers.

17. *How will leasing of category 1 and 2 vouchers be incorporated into a PHA's leasing rate/SEMAP score? Will these be treated differently than other HC vouchers in such calculations?*

Answer: Under SEMAP these vouchers will not be counted in the PHA's fiscal year in which they were awarded. If the vouchers are awarded in October 2010, they will be counted starting with PHAs with fiscal years beginning 1/1/2011. After that year, they will be counted.

18. *Can these vouchers be project-based?*

Answer: Yes, in accordance with the Project-Based Voucher Program regulations at 24 CFR Part 983.