



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; Public Housing
Agencies

Notice PIH 2022-07

Issued: April 6, 2022

Cross References: PIH Notice 2020-01; PIH
Notice 2020-09; PIH Notice 2020-22

SUBJECT: Mainstream Vouchers – Non-Competitive Opportunity for Additional Vouchers Authorized by the CARES Act and Extraordinary Administrative Funding

1. PURPOSE

This notice provides information on new funding opportunities for Mainstream vouchers.

The following provisions are being offered to help public housing agencies (PHAs) prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (Public Law 116-136):

- An opportunity for PHAs to receive new Mainstream vouchers (see Section 3).
- Extraordinary administrative fees to help PHAs lease their Mainstream vouchers given the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic (see Section 4).

2. BACKGROUND

The CARES Act authorized HUD to use Mainstream carryover funding from previous appropriations Acts for two purposes to prevent, prepare for, or respond to coronavirus: 1) to award new Mainstream vouchers non-competitively, and 2) for extraordinary administrative fees.

Through this notice, HUD is setting forth the application and eligibility requirements for PHAs that wish to receive Mainstream vouchers and extraordinary administrative fees in accordance with the CARES Act authority for the award of Mainstream voucher unobligated balances.

Mainstream vouchers serve households that include a non-elderly person(s) with disabilities. In recent years, HUD awarded new Mainstream vouchers through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 and FY 2019 Mainstream Notices of Funding Availability, and later awarded an additional \$75 million of Mainstream vouchers to these PHAs through PIH Notice 2020-09: *CARES Act Mainstream Funding for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) Awarded Funding Allocations in the 2017 and 2019 Competitions as authorized by the CARES Act*. HUD then made \$150 million available for new Mainstream vouchers through PIH Notice 2020-22: *Mainstream Vouchers – Non-Competitive Opportunity for Additional Vouchers Authorized by the CARES Act, Temporary Waivers and Alternative Requirements, and Modified 2020 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Renewal Calculation*, as authorized by the CARES Act. HUD is now awarding up to \$35 million in new Mainstream voucher awards (see Section 3 of this notice).

HUD encourages PHAs to work with their community partners to apply for and use additional Mainstream vouchers as part of an overall community housing plan. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many localities are working urgently to house those transitioning out of institutional settings and homeless populations to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among those living in shelters or other close quarters. The CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act provided supplemental funding for the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program and the new Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program to assist communities in preventing, preparing for, and responding to coronavirus' impact on individuals and families who need housing assistance.

As authorized and funded by the CARES Act, HUD allocated supplemental administrative fee funding for the HCV program (including Mainstream vouchers) through two notices, PIH Notice 2020-08: *CARES Act – HCV Program Administrative Fees*, and PIH Notice 2020-18: *CARES Act – HCV Program Administrative Fees – Second Award*. The amount of funding PHAs received was based on the average of the PHA's calendar year (CY) 2018 and CY 2019 monthly administrative fee eligibility (100 percent proration), including the PHA's administrative fee eligibility for Mainstream vouchers.

The extraordinary administrative funding action described in this notice is being calculated and allocated exclusively with respect to Mainstream vouchers. Administrative funding allocated through this notice must be used for eligible expenses (see Section 4b of this notice) in support of leasing Mainstream vouchers.

3. ADDITIONAL MAINSTREAM VOUCHERS AVAILABLE FOR PHAS FOR CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE EFFORTS

- a. Eligible PHAs:** PHAs eligible for this allocation of additional Mainstream Vouchers are those that:

- Received a Mainstream award through the FY 2017 Mainstream Voucher Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) (FR-6100-N43) published on April 18, 2018, the FY 2019 Mainstream Voucher Program NOFA (FR-6300-N-43) published on July 2, 2019, PIH Notice 2020-09: *CARES Act Mainstream Funding for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) Awarded Funding Allocations in the 2017 and 2019 Competitions*, or PIH Notice 2020-22: *Mainstream Vouchers – Non-Competitive Opportunity for Additional Vouchers Authorized by the CARES Act, Temporary Waivers and Alternative Requirements, and Modified 2020 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Renewal Calculation*; and
- Have a current Mainstream voucher unit utilization rate of 80% or higher as of November 2021.

b. Available Funding: HUD will make available up to \$35,000,000 in Mainstream carryover funding from the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31), Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6), and Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94). Funding under this notice is dependent on the availability of appropriations. HUD will monitor the demand for Mainstream voucher funding. As needed, HUD may issue further guidance that describes how it will allocate available Mainstream voucher resources, including prioritizing the circumstances or conditions warranting Mainstream voucher issuance.

c. Application Requirements: To receive an allocation of Mainstream vouchers, please submit a completed form HUD-52515 via email to MainstreamFunding@hud.gov. The subject line of the email must include the PHA’s number and the words “Request for Mainstream Award for COVID-19 Response” (for example, TX123 Request for Mainstream Award for COVID-19 Response). The email must come from the Executive Director, Chief Executive Officer, or individual of equivalent position of the PHA. PHAs submitting a request for assistance under the notice should use the newly revised form HUD-52515. The revised form has an expiration of July 31, 2022.

All required fields of the form HUD-52515 must be completed unless otherwise noted in the following instructions:

- A. Name and Mailing Address of the Housing Agency (PHA) - Enter the PHA name and address.
- B. PHA Code – Enter the 5-digit alphanumeric code for the PHA that begins with the State abbreviation of the PHA and ends with three numbers, e.g., TX123.
- C. Number of Vouchers Requested – Enter the number of vouchers the PHA is requesting for their COVID-19 response. See table below, which represents preliminary caps based on available funding.

- D. Geographic Area/Jurisdiction – Do not complete.
- E. Capacity of Organization – Do not complete.
- F. Need/Extent of Problem – Provide a short description of the specific need for vouchers and how it relates to how the PHA is preventing, preparing for, or responding to coronavirus in their community. HUD may award vouchers that exceed the applicable cap if there are funds remaining, so PHAs should also describe the total expected need for Mainstream vouchers in their community.
- G. Soundness of Approach – Do not complete.
- H. Leveraging Resources – Do not complete.
- I. Achieving Results and Program Evaluation – Do not complete.
- J. Memorandum of Understanding – Do not complete.
- K. Other Information Required in the Notice or NOFA – Provide the anticipated monthly per unit cost for HAP only.
- L. Program Specific Certifications – Do not complete.

d. Determination of Awards: If the PHA submits a complete HUD-52515, HUD will award the lesser of the PHA’s requested number of vouchers entered on the HUD-52515 or the maximum vouchers based on the PHA’s size (see table below). HUD reserves the right to exercise its discretion to reduce the PHA’s award or decline to offer an award if program management findings indicate the PHA will not be able to administer the vouchers effectively (for example, the PHA is in financial receivership or has an unresolved audit finding).

PHA Size (based on total HCV program Annual Contributions Contract (ACC))	Maximum Mainstream Vouchers to be Awarded Under this Provision*
More than 5,000 vouchers	50
1,000 to 4,999 vouchers	30
Less than 1,000 vouchers	10

e. Resolution of Civil Rights Matters: Outstanding civil rights matters must be resolved before applicants can be determined eligible for new Mainstream vouchers. Interested PHAs who after review are confirmed to have civil rights matters unresolved will be determined ineligible. Interested PHAs having any of the charges, cause **determinations**, lawsuits, or letters of findings referenced immediately below that have not been resolved to HUD’s satisfaction are ineligible. Such matters include:

- Charges from HUD concerning a systemic violation of the Fair Housing Act or receipt of a cause determination from a substantially equivalent State or local fair housing agency concerning a systemic violation of a substantially equivalent State or local fair housing

law proscribing discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status.

- Status as a defendant in a Fair Housing Act lawsuit filed by the Department of Justice alleging a pattern or practice of discrimination or denial of rights to a group of persons raising an issue of public importance pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 3614(a).
- Status as a defendant in any other lawsuit filed or joined by the Department of Justice alleging a pattern or practice or systemic violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, or a claim under the False Claims Act related to fair housing, non-discrimination, or civil rights generally including an alleged failure to affirmatively further fair housing;
- Receipt of a letter of findings identifying systemic non-compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act; or
- Receipt of a cause determination from a substantially equivalent State or local fair housing agency concerning a systemic violation of provisions of a State or local law prohibiting discrimination in housing based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or lawful source of income.

HUD will determine if actions to resolve the charge, cause determination, lawsuit, or letter of findings are sufficient to resolve the matter. Examples of actions that may be considered sufficient to resolve the matter include, but are not limited to:

- Current compliance with a voluntary compliance agreement signed by all the parties;
- Current compliance with a HUD-approved conciliation agreement signed by all the parties;
- Current compliance with a conciliation agreement signed by all the parties and approved by the State governmental or local administrative agency with jurisdiction over the matter.
- Current compliance with a consent order or consent decree;
- Current compliance with a final judicial ruling or administrative ruling or decision; or
- Dismissal of charges.

- f. **Deadline:** Requests will be processed on a rolling basis as long as funding remains available but must be received no later than **May 6, 2022**, at 11:59pm Eastern Time.
- g. **Recapture and Reallocation:** Vouchers awarded through this process are subject to the same terms as those awarded through FY 2017 Mainstream Voucher NOFA (FR-6100-N-43) or the FY 2019 Mainstream Voucher NOFA (FR-6300-N-43). HUD may recapture unused or underutilized funding if the PHA does not utilize within 12 months of the effective date of the award.

4. MAINSTREAM VOUCHER EXTRAORDINARY ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING APPLICATION

Using its authority under the CARES Act, HUD will make available \$500 per voucher awarded through the FY 2017 Mainstream Voucher NOFA (FR-6100-N-43) or the FY 2019 Mainstream Voucher NOFA (FR-6300-N-43), PIH Notice 2020-09, PIH Notice 2020-22, and this notice. The FY 2017 and 2019 NOFAs competitively awarded 11,092 new Mainstream vouchers and 15,363 vouchers, respectively. PIH Notice 2020-09 non-competitively awarded 8,252 new vouchers to PHAs that had received awards from the 2017 or 2019 NOFAs, and PIH Notice 2020-22 non-competitively awarded 16,241 Mainstream vouchers to those PHAs in addition to PHAs that did not previously administer Mainstream vouchers. HUD is providing extraordinary administrative fees to help PHAs to administer the Mainstream vouchers as they prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Applications will be processed as they are received, however, all applications must be received no later than **May 6, 2022**, at 11:59pm Eastern Time.

To apply for these funds, the Executive Director, Chief Executive Officer, or individual of equivalent position of the PHA will submit an email to MainstreamFunding@hud.gov with the subject line "<PHA Code> EAF Mainstream Application" that contains the following statement:

I certify that my PHA needs funding to assist in leasing up Mainstream vouchers due to challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. I acknowledge that the extraordinary administrative fees made available through this notice are unique and include specific uses that regular, ongoing administrative fees cannot cover.

In one email, the PHA should specify their interest in receiving new vouchers, extraordinary administrative fees, or both.

- a. **Eligible Expenses:** This extraordinary administrative funding must be used to support the Mainstream Voucher Program for two purposes: (1) any currently eligible voucher administrative costs, including activities to support housing search and lease up of eligible

applicants; and (2) costs related to the retention, recruitment, and support of participating owners in the form of security deposits, signing bonuses, vacancy payments, and damage mitigation. Note that the uses of extraordinary administrative funding for retention, recruitment and support of participating owners described in this notice are unique to these amounts and include specific uses that regular, ongoing administrative fees cannot cover.

- b. Ineligible Expenses:** The funding provided through this notice cannot be used for the repayment of debts or any amounts owed to HUD or program participants including, but not limited to, Office of Inspector General (OIG), Quality Assurance Division (QAD) or other monitoring review findings. Additionally, administrative fee funds provided through this notice considered for salaries, bonuses and/or employee incentives must comply with the executive compensation requirements under Section 220 of Public Law No. 116-94, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 and must comply with reasonable compensation requirements found at 2 CFR Part 200.430(b).
- c. Reporting Requirements for this Funding:** The extraordinary administrative fees allocated through this notice are funded through carryover from previous appropriations for Mainstream vouchers. Funds will be reported using standard protocols for Mainstream vouchers (see *PIH Notice 2020-01: Revised Policies and Procedures for the Mainstream Voucher Program*).

5. INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquiries about this notice should be directed to:
MainstreamVouchers@hud.gov.

6. 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 following active information collections contained in this notice have been approved under the PRA-OMB Control Numbers 2577-0169 and 2577-0083.

/ s /

Dominique Blom
General Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Public and Indian Housing