

Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs)

(also known as Section 8)

What does my voucher do?

Your voucher limits the amount of money you pay in rent each month. The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) will tell you how much you have to pay based on your income.

What additional rights do I have with my voucher?

- You can report decreases in your income to CHA to receive a lower monthly payment.
- CHA will inspect your apartment every other year to ensure that it meets quality standards. You can also request an inspection due to poor conditions.
- You can move to a new apartment anywhere in the US and keep your voucher. CHA will approve higher rents in certain areas of Chicago, so you don't need to restrict your housing search.
- If CHA wants to terminate your voucher, you have the right to an informal hearing.
- You can request reasonable accommodations due to disability.
- You are protected by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which allows you to move without notice to CHA if you are a victim of domestic violence.
- You may be able to access certain programs provided by CHA to assist with finding employment, building financial stability, working towards homeownership, and finding a new place to live.

What do I have to do to keep my voucher?

- Every two years, you must participate in CHA's re-examination process. This will involve filling out paperwork and submitting documents related to your income. Failing to complete your re-examination could lead to the termination of your voucher.
- If anyone is moving into or out of your apartment, you must tell CHA.
- If you are looking to move, you must get approval from CHA to leave your current apartment. Your new apartment will also need to be approved by CHA.
- You must keep your apartment in good condition and allow CHA to inspect it.
- You cannot commit any serious and repeated violations of your lease. CHA considers not paying your portion of the rent a serious violation and can terminate your voucher because of it, even without an eviction order.

Who do I contact if I have questions about my voucher?

- Generally, you can call CHA at 312-935-2600 or email them at hcv@thecha.org.
- You can also perform certain actions, like requesting a move, through the CHA's online participant portal.
- If you need assistance with an informal hearing, you can apply for help from Legal Aid Chicago by calling 312-341-1070.

Have more questions about
HVCs? Chat with us at
www.rentervention.com or
text "Hi" to 866-773-6837

