



HCR Section 8 Waiting List FAQs

How do I apply for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)?

New York State Homes & Community Renewal (NYSHCR) is offering a new option to apply online for open and participating Section 8 Waiting Lists. Online applications will be available on the MyHousing Portal on NYSHCR's website: <https://Section8.hcr.ny.gov> and translations are available in many languages.

If you'd like to apply with your local Section 8 administrator by paper, you still can. Please visit <https://hcr.ny.gov/hcv> to find your local administrator agency by county.

Application does not guarantee receipt of a Housing Choice Voucher.

What is the Housing Choice Voucher Program?

The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, commonly known as Section 8, is a federal program designed to provide rental assistance to low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Through the HCV Program, NYSHCR pays a portion of eligible families' rent each month directly to the Property Owner/Manager/Landlord.

What is a Tenant-Based Voucher?

Tenant-Based Vouchers provide rental assistance for families in the private rental market. The voucher is provided to applicants and they can choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program. One typical requirement is that the voucher holder leases a unit located within the boundaries of that program's jurisdiction, which is commonly the county line.

NYSHCR pays a portion of contracted rent in the form of a housing assistance payment to the landlord on behalf of the participant. The Participant pays the remaining rent, an amount that is roughly equivalent to 30% of their monthly income, and the utility expenses.

What is a Project-Based Voucher?

Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs) provide rental assistance that is tied to a specific apartment unit in a property contracted with the Housing Authority. HCR has Project-Based Vouchers located throughout New York State. These units are generally owned and managed by private landlords or housing companies. Applicants may apply to as many Project-Based Waiting Lists as they like. If selected for a Project-Based Waiting List in a particular project, the applicant will only receive a Project-Based Voucher for that project. Many projects have specific preference

and selection criteria, like designated vouchers for elderly or people who need special features for mobility impairments.

Is there a cost to submit an application for the Waiting List?

No. There is no cost to submit an application on the MyHousing portal or by paper. NYSHCR will never ask for your debit or credit card or any other form of payment to submit an application for its services. Additionally, please do not provide personal information to anyone claiming he or she can guarantee a spot on the waiting list, improve your chances of selection for the waiting list, or ensure that you will receive any benefits from NYSHCR.

Can I submit more than one application for housing? Can I apply to more than one Waiting List?

Each head of household can create one application in the My Housing portal. You can use this application to apply to just one Waiting List, or to apply to multiple Waiting Lists depending on your eligibility and housing needs.

NYSHCR maintains separate Waiting Lists for each PBV project and maintains separate Waiting Lists for Tenant Based HCV projects in each jurisdiction (typically organized by county). For more information about which jurisdictions are covered by the NYSHCR HCV program, please see our list of [Section 8 Local Program Administrators](#).

If a new Waiting List opens up in the future, you can use the Applicant Portal to return to your application and add additional Waiting Lists on your application.

Can more than one person in my household submit an application?

Yes. A head of household cannot submit more than one application but a different head of household can submit another application for a different household composition. For example, Grandmother can submit an application for a household with Adult Son and Grandson. Separately, if Adult Son wants to move out, Adult Son can submit an application for him and Grandson. Each head of household must be 18 years of age or older, or an emancipated minor according to NYS law.

Am I eligible to receive a preference on the NYSHCR Waiting List?

As per the NYSHCR administrative plan, the following preferences are in place for all projects:

- Households defined as Homeless
- Households identified as Elderly and/or Disabled (as defined by HUD) or families with Dependent Children.

Many PBV projects have specific eligibility criteria or preferences. If so, this will be identified in the project description in the MyHousing portal.

What are the eligibility requirements to be admitted into NYSHCR's HCV Program?

To be eligible to receive a voucher, you must meet the following requirements at the time you are selected from the Waitlist:

- You must be 18 years of age or older, or an emancipated minor according to NYS law.
- Your household income must meet income guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for your location. Maximum income guidelines may not exceed the low-income limit as determined by HUD annually.
- You must meet all the eligibility guidelines found in the NYSHCR Administrative Plan.
- When selected from the Waiting List, you will be required to provide additional information to verify the data you supplied when applying. HCR will verify your data, and in most cases will require documentation to demonstrate that you are eligible. Examples of information include: proof of preference documentation, annual household income, family composition, social security numbers, or eligible immigration status for at least one family member, criminal background, and prior termination from housing assistance programs. False information provided during the screening process may result in you being ineligible for NYSHCR housing programs. See below regarding immigration eligibility.

What information do I need to provide in order to apply (for all household members)?

- Name
- Email address
- Telephone number
- Current Address
- Date of Birth
- Gender, Race, and Ethnicity
- Income and Assets
- Disability and Veteran Status, if claiming a preference
- Social Security Number or Residency Registration Number, if available

What are the income limits used to determine eligibility?

The limits are set annually by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development department (HUD) and can be found on HUD's website below. Select your locality to determine the limits that apply to you where you currently reside.

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2024/select_Geography.odn

Can I apply for the Waiting List if I was previously terminated from the program?

Yes. You will not be prohibited from submitting an application; however, when you are selected for the Waiting List, your application will be reviewed in accordance with NYSHCR's eligibility

and screening criteria, which may include a review of your previous participation in a housing assistance program.

Can I be selected for the NYSHCR Waiting List if I am on another program’s waiting list?

Yes. It is possible to apply to more than one Waiting List. It is also possible to be selected and screened for more than one Waiting List. It is not possible to receive more than one voucher at a time.

What happens after I apply using the MyHousing Portal?

A confirmation number will be displayed on your screen when you have successfully completed the application. The confirmation will also be emailed to your email address you provided in the application. Applicants should keep a digital or print copy of the registration confirmation for their records. This can later be used to access your application to make updates or changes to your household’s information.

If my application is selected for one Waiting List, will I lose my spot on another waiting list?

No. If your application is selected for eligibility screening off of one Waiting List, you will keep your spot on any and all other Waiting Lists you have applied to. If you receive a voucher from one Waiting List, you may still stay on the Waiting List for another program if you choose.

Even if you reject assistance from one program, you can keep your spot on the other Waiting List. However, you will not be able to receive more than one voucher at a time.

If I am on any other waiting list (i.e., NYCHA and/or HPD), will that automatically place me on NYSHCR’s Waiting List(s)?

No, being on any other waiting list, including NYCHA’s or HPD’s waiting list does not automatically place you on a Waiting List through NYSHCR. You **MUST** apply separately to NYSHCR’s Waiting Lists.

If I apply for Section 8 Housing using the MyHousing Portal, when will I receive a housing voucher?

As housing assistance becomes available, the program’s local administrator will contact you for an eligibility screening appointment. The screening process will determine if you meet the basic eligibility requirements to qualify for the program. If you meet the program requirements, you will receive your tenant-based or project-based housing voucher.

I am not a US citizen. Am I eligible to apply?

You do not have to be a United States citizen to apply for public or subsidized housing. Lawful permanent residents and certain categories of other noncitizens may apply. An applicant family without any citizens or members with eligible immigration status is not eligible for assistance.

If one member of your household fits into any of the categories below, your whole family can apply to the program.

Citizens:

- A citizen born in the United States
- A naturalized citizen

Eligible Noncitizens:

- A lawful permanent resident (Green card holder)
- A registry immigrant (admitted for permanent residence by the U.S. Attorney General and eligible for citizenship)
- A refugee or an asylee
- A conditional entrant
- A parolee
- A withholding grantee
- A person granted 1986 amnesty status
- A resident of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau, or Guam
- A victim of trafficking or relatives of such a victim

Can I apply for Section 8 housing if some members of my family are not U.S. citizens and do not have a lawful immigration status?

Yes. You can apply to the program if at least one member of your household is a citizen, a legal permanent resident (green card holder) or eligible noncitizen (see the list above of eligible noncitizens). Households that include people with both eligible and ineligible immigration status are called mixed households. For example, if you do not have legal immigration status but your child was born in the United States and is a U.S. citizen, you have a mixed household.

If you have a mixed household, you will be eligible, but only for pro-rated assistance based on the number of members in your household who are U.S. citizens or have eligible immigration status. This may reduce your ability to receive assistance if the rent is too high to afford.

If you have questions regarding your immigration status and eligibility, please contact an immigration expert. If you do not have an attorney, and need help to find low cost, high-quality legal services, please call the Office for New Americans Hotline at 1-800-566-7636.

If I get a Section 8 voucher, will that count against me in a public charge determination for immigration purposes?

Right now, receipt of Section 8 benefits is not counted as a public charge for immigration purposes.

Can I start an online application and come back to it later? Can I edit details later if my situation changes?

The online version of the initial application is intended to be completed and submitted in one session. There is no option to save a partially completed online application.

You should thoroughly read all information on the start page and ensure you have any necessary documentation ready before you begin. You should also select your preferred language on the start page. Once you are ready to begin, you will click “Start Here” and be prompted to enter information and make selections for your household. You must complete all required fields and sections in full. The final page will display a confirmation code when the application has been saved and submitted, and you will receive this information in an email as well.

The confirmation code can be used to later – after about 24 hours – register for the Applicant Portal by navigating to <https://section8.hcr.ny.gov/Account/Login>. Here, you can confirm the status of your application, edit or update your household details including income or household members, and also choose to add or remove yourself from available Waiting Lists.

What documents will I need to upload with my application? What documents will I need to provide if my name is selected from a Waiting List?

Applicants using the MyHousing Portal are not required to upload any personal documents or proofs at the time of application. You will be prompted to complete and electronically sign the HUD Supplemental Contact form with the option to allow the program to contact another person or organization to assist with your housing as needed.

If your name is drawn from a Section 8 Waiting List, the Local Administrator who manages the list will send you a written communication about the various types of documents needed to process your application. They will send forms that you need to sign, and they will request documents that establish your household’s eligibility for the program and confirm any preferences you have claimed, if applicable. Eligibility-related documentation could include personal identification, birth certificate, and proof of income. Preference-related documentation could include proof of disability or homelessness. The communication from the Local Administrator will include information on how to return documents to them and the date by which they must be submitted.

What languages are available in the Section 8 My Housing Portal?



The MyHousing Portal can be translated to many languages using the Recite Me Toolbar.

Click the blue “Accessibility & Language” button at the bottom right side of the screen. A toolbar will open in the top of the browser.



In the toolbar, click the Translation icon and then search for your preferred language from the list of over 100 languages. When you select the language, all text on the MyHousing Portal will be translated until you turn the feature off.

You can explore other useful features for reading, visual, and/or language assistance directly on the toolbar. You may close the toolbar by clicking the X at the far right side. Then, click OK to confirm this choice.

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