



HOUSTON
HOUSING AUTHORITY

Transforming Lives & Communities

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FEDERAL FUNDING SHORTFALL LEADS TO CHANGES IN HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM IN HOUSTON

With new estimated federal budget appropriations, HHA follows HUD recommendations

HOUSTON (April 26, 2017) – Houston Housing Authority (HHA), which administers the Housing Choice Voucher Program, must rescind vouchers from individuals whose selected units have not yet passed the required safety inspection and will be unable to issue vouchers for the remainder of the year because of a shortfall in federal funding. Thousands of current voucher recipients who depend on affordable quality housing will not have their vouchers rescinded.

HHA is among other housing authorities across the nation rescinding vouchers in response to funding cuts, but this is the first time a situation like this has occurred in Houston. HHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program is housing more families this year than ever before. HHA earned a “High Performer” designation for both the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program from HUD last fiscal year, which ranked HHA as one of the best housing authorities in the U.S.

“We’re committed to providing our clients with the additional needed resources and information in order to prepare for the impact these changes will bring,” said HHA President and CEO Tory Gunsolley. “We aim to serve as many people as we can and we’re are developing short and long-term solutions that will allow us to continue to do that.”

HHA receives funding through federal programming. There is shortfall in funding for Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contracts, which serve as resources for vouchers granted by the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD).

HHA is following HUD’s instruction to rescind vouchers from individuals whose selected units have not yet passed the required safety inspection.

HHA, which houses more than 17,000 families through its voucher program, set up a dedicated phone line at (713) 260-0618 and email address at HCVInfo@housingforhouston.com to manage all questions and concerns regarding rescinded vouchers.

“We’ve been working hand and hand with our clients to help ensure everyone is not only well aware of what’s going on but also equipped with the right information to handle this situation as we move forward,” said Mark Thiele, vice president of HHA’s Housing Choice Voucher Programs.

ABOUT THE HHA:

The Houston Housing Authority provides affordable homes and services to more than 58,000 low-income Houstonians, including over 17,000 families housed through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and another 5,700 living in 25 public housing and tax credit developments around the city. HHA also administers one of the nation’s largest voucher program exclusively serving homeless veterans. More information about the Houston Housing Authority can be found at www.housingforhouston.com.

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