



CALIFORNIA HOMELESS COORDINATING AND FINANCING COUNCIL

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
Gavin Newsom, Governor | Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, Secretary

September 22, 2020

Dear Partners:

We know the safest and healthiest place for people to be is in their own homes. With that in mind, we want to alert you to an opportunity for new subsidized housing resources that can assist efforts to rehouse people experiencing homelessness. **The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced in [Notice PIH 2020-22](#) that new Mainstream Vouchers are now available to Public Housing Authorities.**

Mainstream Vouchers are Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) specifically for households with a family member with a disability who is between the ages of 18–62. **The Notice encourages housing authorities to work with community partners and use these vouchers to support urgent efforts to house people experiencing homelessness to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.** HUD is also allowing housing authorities to adjust their criminal background screening for applicants for Mainstream Vouchers, distinct from their general Housing Choice Voucher criminal background screening criteria.

Any housing authority that administers the Housing Choice Voucher program is eligible for an allocation of Mainstream Vouchers. Housing authorities that don't currently administer Mainstream Vouchers are eligible to apply for the new vouchers. Housing authorities are eligible to receive either 40, 75 or 100 Mainstream Vouchers depending on the size of the housing authority's current Housing Choice Voucher Program.

To apply for the vouchers, housing authorities need to submit a simple form to HUD. Requests to HUD will be processed on a rolling basis for as long as funding remains available but must be received no later than December 31, 2020. The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) recommends that housing authorities apply for the vouchers as soon as possible, given that the funding pool is limited. More details on how to apply are in the Notice.

With California's homelessness and housing affordability crises, HCFC also encourages housing authorities to apply for these new Mainstream Vouchers in partnership with their local Continuums of Care, and to target the vouchers to eligible households that are experiencing homelessness in order to further our collective goal of permanently housing people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. **HCFC recommends that Continuums of Care and local governments reach out to their local housing authorities to partner on this effort to gain new Mainstream Vouchers to house people experiencing homelessness in your community.**

Housing authority contact information can be found [here](#). Additional information from HUD and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness on how to partner with your housing authority can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Please reach out to HCFC if we can assist you in developing partnerships to use Mainstream Vouchers to house people experiencing homelessness. Thank you for all you are doing to keep families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness safe during this pandemic and for keeping an urgent focus on rehousing efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ali Sutton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ali Sutton
Deputy Secretary for Homelessness