

American Rescue Plan's Emergency Housing Vouchers for Survivors of Sexual Assault

Karlo Ng
Director of Legal Initiatives
National Alliance for Safe Housing

Renee Williams
Senior Attorney
National Housing Law Project

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What is an EHV?

- Tenant-based rental assistance similar to Housing Choice Vouchers (“Section 8”)
 - Administered by HUD via local public housing agencies (PHAs)
 - Participants can use to lease up in the private market
 - Mobile rental subsidy



Which PHAs were allocated EHV's?

www.hud.gov/ehv

[Home](#) / Emergency Housing Vouchers

Need Housing?

Contact your local [Continuum of Care \(CoC\)](#)

Service Providers

Important Resources

[EHV Notice \(PIH 2021-15\)](#) Published
5/5/2021

[List of EHV Awardees \(MS EXCEL\)](#)

[Find Your Local Public Housing Agency \(PHA\)](#)

[PHA and CoC Crosswalk](#)

[FAQs](#) (Published 6/9/2021)

See [Archived FAQs](#)

Questions

Email EHV@hud.gov

EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS



The Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program is available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Through EHV, HUD is providing 70,000 housing choice vouchers to local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) in order to assist individuals and families who are:



Who qualifies for EHVs?

- Individuals and families who are
 - Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or human trafficking
 - Definitions are from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)
 - Experiencing homelessness
 - At risk of experiencing homelessness
 - Recently homeless and providing the voucher would prevent the individual's/family's homelessness or from having a high risk of housing instability
- Income qualifications
- Immigration status requirements



What are the immigration requirements?

- U.S. citizen and immigration status requirements are same as Housing Choice Voucher program
- At least one household member must be a U.S. citizen/national or be an “eligible immigrant”
 - U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant can be a minor child
- Mixed-status families receive prorated EHV assistance



Who are “eligible immigrants”?

- “Eligible immigrants” are:
 - lawful permanent residents;
 - VAWA self-petitioners;
 - asylees and refugees;
 - parolees;
 - persons granted withholding of removal/deportation;
 - qualified victims of trafficking;
 - persons granted admission for emergent or public interest reasons;
 - individuals residing in U.S. under Compacts of Free Association with Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau; and
 - immigrants admitted for lawful temporary residence under the Immigration Reform & Control Act of 1986.



What's different about EHV's?

- PHAs are required to work with Continuums of Care (CoCs) and homeless services and victim service provider organizations (DV/SA/HT) as referral partners.
 - Eligibility of the 4 categories is determined by the CoC and other referral partners.
 - These relationships must be memorialized in Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs).
- EHV's can be used for new admissions and VAWA emergency transfers.
 - SA survivors can get safety moves under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).



What's different about EHV's?

- \$3,500 services fee per voucher to help participants access housing. Eligible uses -
 - **Housing search assistance is required**
 - PHAs can contract with victim service providers or hire staff to carry this out
 - Security deposit, utility deposit and arrears, rental application, and holding fees (optional)
 - Owner/landlord recruitment, outreach, incentives, and retention payments (optional)
 - Other eligible uses (optional)
 - Moving expenses
 - Tenant-readiness services
 - Essential household items
 - Renter's insurance



What else is different?

- PHAs must have a EHV waiting list separate from HCV waiting list.
- No local residency preferences
- Restrictions on denials of assistance
 - Mandatory prohibitions
 - Conviction of manufacturing or producing methamphetamine in federally assisted housing
 - Subject to lifetime registration requirement under state sex offender registration program
 - Permissive prohibitions – if PHAs use these, they must also do individualized assessments & consult with CoC re: impact
 - Unallowable prohibitions
 - Prior eviction or termination from federally assisted housing
 - Owe rent or other amounts to a PHA (e.g. for property damage)
 - Abuse of alcohol
 - Drug-related criminal activity



What else is different?

- Flexibility for participants to verify income and immigration status/SSN
 - PHAs can extend time period for immigration verification
- PHAs can establish higher payment standards.
- Initial search term = 120 days (instead of 60 days)
- Initial lease term can be less than 12 months
- No portability residency requirement. Participants can port anytime during the first year of EHV assistance
 - Note that VAWA already allows SA survivors to do so if need to move is because of SA.
- EHV's cannot be reissued to a new family after September 30, 2023.



What roles can you play?

- Deadlines are coming up quickly
 - Official MOU deadline – July 31, 2021
 - HUD encourages PHAs to enter into MOUs by July 1, 2021. Leasing starts July 1.
- Contact your CoCs and PHAs ASAP to:
 - Establish partnerships for **direct referrals** for EHV
 - Include SA and culturally specific victim services organizations
 - Integrate into Coordinated Entry (CE) or outside of CE
 - Determine how distribution of EHV will be **prioritized**
 - Collaborate on **supporting EHV holders**
 - Ensure that EHV program is designed to be **low-barrier and respects confidentiality**



What roles can you play?

- Contact your CoCs and PHAs ASAP to:
 - Identify other service and system gaps and create partnerships to assist EHV holders
 - To find CoCs and PHAs - www.hud.gov/ehv
- See Sample Letter from NYC CoC DV Co-Chairs to NYC CoC Steering Committee Co-Chairs. Tips:
 - Outline SA survivors' need for permanent affordable housing locally.
 - Advocate for prioritization of EHV for SA survivors, using ability for PHAs to establish local preferences.
 - Try to integrate into CoC's Coordinated Entry system. If that's not possible, enter into MOU with PHA to do separate SA referrals.
 - If SA VSPs cannot be referral partners, provide alternatives.
 - Partnerships are critical!
- **If you are experiencing challenges with PHAs or CoCs, contact your local HUD office (email: EHV@hud.gov).**



Resources

- HUD's EHV website
 - www.hud.gov/ehv
- EHV guidance for victim service providers
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/14cWYGn8hDDCFHPynyCscui_EiUcDdP6IVQI7_J1M_DI/edit?usp=sharing
- Certification template for DV/SA/HT victim service providers that are referral agencies for PHAs
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yo7WNNfcs3mwbbelyLjUisQjQDzQNi8FokAJpHUz-vg/edit?usp=sharing>
- Letter to NYC CoC Steering Committee Co-Chairs (sample)
 - <https://www.dropbox.com/s/luo1wh2fplyf3ix/NYC%20DV%20Committee%20EHV%20Prioritization%20Recommendations%20Final.pdf?dl=0>



Questions?

Karlo Ng

Director of Legal Initiatives

National Alliance for Safe Housing

kng@nashta.org

Renee Williams

Senior Attorney

National Housing Law Project

rwilliams@nhlp.org

