



## Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List Opening 2017 Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP)?

Atlanta Housing Authority's (AHA) Housing Choice Voucher Program, commonly known as Section 8, provides eligible low-income households ("Participants") with opportunities to live in rental homes owned by private property owners. Participants choose where they want to live, as long as the unit is 1) approved by AHA through an inspection and 2) it is determined that the rent is reasonable. AHA pays a portion of the contracted rent in the form of a housing assistance payment (HAP) to the landlord on behalf of the Participant. The HAP is based on 30% of the household's monthly adjusted income or the monthly minimum rent requirement of \$125, whichever is greater (unless the Participant is otherwise exempt from the minimum rent requirement of \$125). The Participant pays the rest of the rent and utilities reduced by a utility allowance provided by AHA. Households made up of all elderly and/or disabled members are exempt from the minimum rent requirement.

### 2. Why is AHA opening its Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List?

AHA opens its HCVP waiting list as often as needed when funding is available to provide assistance to additional low-income families. AHA plans to exhaust its current HCVP Waiting List during the current fiscal year due to its aggressive pace in selecting and leasing up households eligible for housing assistance.

In an effort to provide access to affordable housing in Atlanta for more low-income families, as well as the elderly and individuals with a qualifying disability, AHA is opening its Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List from 9:00 a.m., March 15, 2017, through 5:00 p.m., March 21, 2017.

### 3. How can I apply for the waiting list?

You must submit a pre-application online at [www.AHAWaitlist.org](http://www.AHAWaitlist.org) during the Waiting List Registration period from 9:00 a.m., March 15, 2017, through 5:00 p.m., March 21, 2017. The pre-application – which requires only your name, date of birth, mailing address, email address, household income, and number of household members – must be submitted online using a computer, smartphone, tablet or other electronic device with web-browsing Internet access.

If you do not have personal access to a computer or electronic device with web-browsing Internet access, you may submit the pre-application online at locations throughout the city that offer free use of their computers, such as public libraries. (Log on to [www.AHAWaitlist.org](http://www.AHAWaitlist.org) for a list of Internet access locations in Atlanta.)

If you require assistance in completing a pre-application because of a disability, required language translation services or need for a specific communication format or for other reasons, you may call the Waiting List Hotline at 1-855-242-7701. Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities using TDD or TTY technology may call Georgia Relay Services by dialing 7-1-1 for assistance.

Pre-applications will NOT be accepted at any AHA location. Internet access is not available for submitting a pre-application at any AHA location.

For answers to other questions about the pre-application, log on to [www.AHAWaitlist.org](http://www.AHAWaitlist.org) or call the hotline at 1-855-242-7701.

#### 4. Do I have to be a United States citizen in order to apply for the waiting list?

No, anyone who is 18 years of age or older, or who is an emancipated minor in accordance with Georgia Law may apply. However, if selected for the waiting list, you must meet all AHA HCVP eligibility requirements.

#### 5. What is a Residency Preference?

Pursuant to HUD regulations (specifically, 24 CFR §982.207), a public housing authority (PHA) may establish a system of local preferences, including a residency preference, for selection of families admitted to the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP). The Residency Preference applies to Applicants that a) reside, b) work or c) have been notified in writing that they have been hired to work within the geographic area within the official city limits of Atlanta (Atlanta Residency Preference Area). The Residency Preference allows AHA the authority to select Applicants who meet the preference first as a priority before selecting Applicants who do not meet the preference.

During the registration period, Registrants must self-certify that they a) reside, b) work or c) have been notified in writing that they have been hired to work within the official city limits of Atlanta. Provided a Registrant is selected to be part of the pool of Applicants, AHA will verify if the Applicant meets the Residency Preference when the Applicant is selected for eligibility determination.

The Residency Preference will NOT be based on how long an applicant has resided or worked within the Atlanta Residency Preference Area. Full-time students enrolled or active participants in, education and training programs located within the Atlanta Residency Preference Area will not qualify for the Residency Preference solely based on their enrollment.

6. Why is AHA implementing a Residency Preference?

AHA determined that establishing a City of Atlanta residency preference for the 2017 HCVP Waiting List and subsequent openings of the HCVP Waiting List would be the best way to serve local affordable housing needs and priorities within AHA's jurisdiction.

7. What happens after I submit the pre-application?

First, you will receive an email confirming that your pre-application was successfully submitted. If you submit a pre-application but do NOT receive the email confirmation, log on to [www.AHAwaitlist.org](http://www.AHAwaitlist.org) to access your confirmation information or call the Waiting List Hotline at 1-855-242-7701.

Following the closing of the pre-application registration period, AHA will conduct a computerized, random selection that gives preference first to those that qualify for the Residency Preference and then other Registrants up to 30,000 pre-applications.

Once the Waiting List is finalized, all Registrants will receive an email to inform them whether or not they were selected for the official waiting list. Registrants may also log onto [www.AHAwaitlist.org](http://www.AHAwaitlist.org) to check on their status. Registrants that are selected for the waiting list will also receive a mailed letter with further instructions.

8. How many pre-applications may I submit?

Only one pre-application per Registrant will be accepted.

9. Can more than one person in my household submit a pre-application for the waiting list?

Yes. Each Registrant, however, must be 18 years of age or older or be an emancipated minor in accordance with the laws of the state of Georgia.

10. What are the eligibility requirements for an applicant to be admitted into the Housing Choice Voucher Program?

For information on HCVP eligibility requirements, view AHA's [MTW Annual Plan](#), Appendix G- AHA Amended and Restated Statement of Corporate Policies, Chapter 3- Housing Choice Tenant-Based Program Policies.

11. What is the Housing Choice Voucher Program work requirement?

All applicants who receive a voucher must agree to and comply with the terms of AHA's Work/Program Participation Requirement. AHA developed the Work/Program Participation Requirement to promote self-sufficiency among non-elderly, non-disabled adult household members ("Target Adults"). A Target Adult is an adult who:

1. Is 18-61 years old and
2. Does not meet HUD's definition of disability for program eligibility

To satisfy the Work/Program Participation Requirement, the household must meet the following conditions:

1. At least one Target Adult member of the household, age 18 - 61, must be legally employed or self-employed in a legitimate business enterprise, appropriately documented, on a full-time basis for at least 30 hours per week (except full-time students 18 to 24 years of age who are exempt from the work requirement)
2. All other Target Adult members, ages 18 – 61, must be actively engaged in one of the following:
  - a. Full-time work: Legally employed or self-employed on a full-time basis at least 30 hours per week; or
  - b. Full-time school: Enrolled in and attending an AHA-recognized school or institution as a full-time student; or
  - c. Part-time work and part-time school/training for a combined minimum of 30 hours per week of employment and education/training:

- i. Legally employed (but not self-employed) on a part-time basis
- ii. And one of the following:
  - a) Enrolled in and attending an AHA-recognized school or institution on a part-time basis, or
  - b) Participating in an AHA-recognized training program

Exemptions from Atlanta Housing Authority's Work Requirement:

- i. Elderly persons age 62 and older are exempt from AHA's Work Requirement.
- ii. Persons with Disabilities, as defined by HUD for program eligibility purposes, are also exempt from AHA's Work Requirement. The definition of a "person with disabilities" in this context is consistent with HUD's definition of a "person with disabilities" for program eligibility purposes.

For information on HCVP eligibility requirements, view AHA's [MTW Annual Plan](#), Appendix G- AHA Amended and Restated Statement of Corporate Policies, Chapter 3- Housing Choice Tenant-Based Program Policies.

**12. If I am selected for the Waiting List, when will I receive my voucher?**

Being selected for the Waiting List does not mean that you will receive a voucher right away or that housing assistance is immediately available. As housing assistance becomes available, AHA will use a computerized, random selection process to draw applicants from the Waiting List on a periodic basis. AHA will give priority to Registrants who meet the Residency Preference in drawing applicants from the Waiting List.

**13. Can I apply for the Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List if I was previously terminated from the program or if I'm on another waiting list?**

Yes. You will not be prohibited from submitting a pre-application; however, if you are selected for the Waiting List, your application will be reviewed in

accordance with AHA's eligibility and screening criteria, which may include a review of your previous participation in a housing assistance program and related rental history, among other things. Even if you are currently receiving assistance from AHA through other programs, you may still apply to be on the Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List.

**14. Is there a cost to submit a Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List pre-application?**

No. There is no cost to submit a pre-application. AHA will never ask for your debit or credit card or any other form of payment to submit a pre-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 AHA benefits.

**15. If I want to register for a chance to be selected for the Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List, but I don't have access to the Internet and I can't get to one of the public sites, can I still apply?**

Yes. If you require assistance in completing a pre-application because of a disability, because you require language translation services or communication in another format, or for other reasons, you may call the Waiting List Hotline at 1-855-242-7701. Potential Registrants with hearing or speech disabilities using TDD or TTY technology may call Georgia Relay Services by dialing 7-1-1 for assistance.

**16. Am I required to live in the city of Atlanta to participate in AHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program?**

You do not have to live in the City of Atlanta to complete a pre-application for a chance to be selected to AHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List. However, in order to qualify for a Residency Preference, you must live, work or have been notified in writing of a job offer in the official

city limits of Atlanta. If you receive a voucher, you must reside in the city of Atlanta for the first year of your participation in AHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program.

17. What are the income limit requirements for the Housing Choice Voucher Program?

In order to qualify for a Housing Choice voucher, your household income must not exceed the Very Low Income Limit as determined by HUD annually.

The 2016 HUD Income Limits are in the table below:



### FY 2016 INCOME LIMITS DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM

[HUD.gov](http://HUD.gov) [HUD User Home](#) [Data Sets](#) [Fair Market Rents](#) [Section 8 Income Limits](#) [MTSP Income Limits](#) [HUD LIHTC Database](#)

#### FY 2016 Income Limits Summary

FY 2016 Income Limit Area	Median Income <b>Explanation</b>	FY 2016 Income Limit Category	Persons in Family							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Fulton County</b>	\$67,500	Very Low (50%) Income Limits (\$) <b>Explanation</b>	23,650	27,000	30,400	<b>33,750</b>	36,450	39,150	41,850	44,550
		Extremely Low Income Limits (\$)* <b>Explanation</b>	14,200	16,200	20,160	<b>24,300</b>	28,440	32,580	36,730	40,890
		Low (80%) Income Limits (\$) <b>Explanation</b>	37,800	43,200	48,600	<b>54,000</b>	58,350	62,650	67,000	71,300