



The MCHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) Application

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) What is the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP)?**
The HCVP (formerly known as Section 8) is a federally funded, locally administered rental assistance program that helps low-income households afford decent and safe housing within the private market.
- 2) How does the program work?**
A housing voucher helps a household to rent a privately owned apartment or house of their choice if it meets all program requirements and the landlord agrees to accept the voucher as partial payment of the rent.
- 3) When is the MCHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting list going to open?**
The MCHA's HCVP waiting list will accept applications from June 6 through June 12, 2019 electronically only at the website www.montcoha.org
- 4) How do I apply?**
Applications may be submitted on-line at www.montcoha.org
- 5) May I only apply during business hours?**
No. Applications will be accepted 24 hours per day from 12:01am June 6 through 11:59pm June 12, 2019. Applicants may apply any time during this time period.
- 6) Should I apply early on June 6th to try to be 'first in line'?**
No. This application process is NOT first-come, first-served. All applications received on-line will be entered in a lottery and have the same opportunity to be placed on the waiting list regardless of when they were received.
- 7) Should I apply more than once to increase my chances of being placed on the waiting list?**
No. The application system will only accept one application per person.
- 8) How long is the application and what information do I need to have to apply?**
The application contains just a few simple questions. Applicants will need their name, date of birth, social security number, contact information and some other basic information.
- 9) How long will the application take to complete?**
Approximately 15 minutes or less.

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10) What happens after I apply?

Upon submitting an application, all applicants will receive a unique multi-digit confirmation number. Applicants MUST keep this confirmation number for their records and future reference.

11) How will I find out if I'm on the waiting list?

The MCHA anticipates receiving thousands of applications. After the waiting list closes, the MCHA's software contractor will conduct an electronic lottery and place up to 1,000 applicants on the waiting list. The order of the applications on the list will also be done by lottery. The waiting list will only contain up to 1,000 applicants, thus, many applicants will not be placed on the waiting list. On or about July 15, 2019 the MCHA's website will list up to 1,000 confirmation numbers that will be placed on the waiting list. Additionally, the MCHA plans to send written confirmation to the applicants placed on the waiting list.

12) Once I apply, when will I receive my voucher?

The on-line application process is just the first step. As a result of the lottery, if an applicant is placed on the waiting list, their household will be subject to eligibility criteria, including a criminal background check for all members of the household 18 years of age or older. It will likely take months or even years for names to rise to the top of the waiting list.

13) Can I apply from any computer or mobile device?

Yes, applicants may apply from any computer or mobile device with an internet connection.

14) Will the application be available in multiple languages?

Yes, the on-line application will be available in English and Spanish.

15) What if I think I need help to apply or I do not have internet access?

For applicants that do not have Internet access, all public libraries in Montgomery County provide Internet access to the public. MCHA Staff will provide assistance in submitting applications online at the following times and locations:

Friday, June 7th (10am through 1pm)

Saturday, June 8th (10am through 1pm)

Monday, June 10th (2pm through 7pm)

- Abington Public Library
- Bryn Mawr – Ludington Public Library
- Lansdale Public Library
- MCHA's Norristown Office
- Norristown Public Library
- Pottstown Public Library

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16) Do I have to visit the MCHA office to apply?

No. Applicants may apply from any computer or mobile device with an internet connection.

17) If I have a disability, may I request a reasonable accommodation to help submit my application?

Yes. Persons with disabilities requiring a reasonable accommodation to apply must contact 484-801-0436 (or PA Voice Relay 800-654-5988) no later than 3:00pm on June 12th or submit a written request to the MCHA. Any written request must be received by the MCHA or postmarked no later than June 12th, 2019.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY: We Do Business in Accordance with the Fair Housing Act (The Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988). IT IS ILLEGAL TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY PERSON BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, HANDICAP, FAMILIAL STATUS (HAVING ONE OR MORE CHILDREN), OR NATIONAL ORIGIN IN THE SALE OR RENTAL OF HOUSING OR RESIDENTIAL LOTS.

