



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

Frequently Asked Questions

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

The HCVP (formerly Section 8) is a federally funded and locally administered rental assistance program designed to help low-income households afford safe and decent housing in the private rental market.

2) How does the program work?

A housing voucher enables a household to rent a privately owned apartment or house of their choice, provided it meets all program requirements and the landlord agrees to accept the voucher as partial payment of the rent.

3) When will the MCHA's HCVP waiting list open?

The MCHA's HCVP waiting list will be open for applications from **November 15th through November 21st, 2024**. Applications must be submitted electronically via the website www.montcoha.org.

4) How do I apply?

You can submit applications online at www.montcoha.org.

5) Is applying free?

Yes, there is no fee to apply, and applicants should not pay any third party to apply on their behalf.

6) May I only apply during business hours?

No, applications will be accepted 24 hours a day from **12:01 a.m. on November 15th through 11:59 p.m. on November 21st, 2024**. You may apply at any time during this period.

7) Should I apply early on November 15th to be 'first in line'?

No, the application process is not first-come, first-served. All applications received will be entered into a lottery, granting each applicant the same opportunity to be placed on the waiting list, regardless of when the application is submitted.

8) Should I apply more than once to increase my chances of being placed on the waiting list?

No, the application system will accept only one application per person.

9) How long is the application, and what information do I need to have to apply?

The application consists of a few simple questions. Applicants will need their name, date of birth, social security number, contact information, and other basic information.

10) How long will the application take to complete?

The application should take approximately 15 minutes or less to complete.

11) What happens after I apply?

After submitting an application, each applicant will receive a unique multi-digit confirmation number. It is essential to keep this confirmation number for your records and future reference.

12) How will I determine if I'm on the waiting list?

The MCHA anticipates a high volume of applications. After the 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 list will also be determined by lottery. MCHA will post confirmation numbers of those placed on the waiting list on the MCHA website **on or about December 15th, 2024**. Additionally, MCHA will send written confirmation to those applicants.

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

The online application is just the initial step. If chosen via lottery, the household will undergo eligibility checks, including a criminal background check for all members of the household aged 18 and older. It may take months or even years for names to rise to the top of the waiting list and for the eligibility process to begin.

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

Yes, you can apply from any computer or mobile device with an internet connection.

15) Will the application be available in multiple languages?

Yes, the online application will be available in English and Spanish.

16) How does my citizenship status affect my HCVP application?

If some household members are U.S. citizens, your household may qualify for reduced assistance. However, if the head of household has work authorization and permission to live in the U.S., your household may qualify for full assistance.

17) What if I need help applying or do not have internet access?

For those without internet access, all public libraries in Montgomery County offer public access to the internet. MCHA staff will provide application assistance at the following times and locations:

Friday, November 15th (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
Saturday, November 16th (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
Monday, November 18th (2 p.m. - 7 p.m.)

Locations include:

- MCHA's Norristown Office
- Norristown Public Library
- Pottstown Public Library

The MCHA's office at 104 W. Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401, will also offer internet access during regular business hours.

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

No, you can apply from any computer or mobile device with an internet connection.

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

Yes, people with disabilities requiring assistance can contact 484-801-0436 (or PA Voice Relay at 800-654-5988) or submit a written request to MCHA. **All correspondence must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. on November 21st, 2024.**

