

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER OVERVIEW FOR FAMILIES

Housing Choice Vouchers provides rental assistance to low-income families in the private rental market. OHA forms a partnership with families and landlords to provide housing opportunities throughout our jurisdiction (Opelika, Valley, Lanett, Camp Hill, Beauregard, Beulah and Smith Station). Through Housing Choice Vouchers, thousands of families have secured quality housing in the neighborhoods of their choice.

BENEFITS FOR FAMILIES

- **Mobility:** Housing Choice provides portable assistance. By following the proper guidelines, families can move to any other city that has a comparable Housing Choice program.
- **Supportive Services:** By becoming Housing Choice clients, eligible families can take advantage of supportive services to expand their employment and educational opportunities.
- **Quality Housing:** OHA conducts an initial property inspection and follow-up annual inspections.
- **Real Choices:** Housing Choice families have a variety of housing options, including apartments, duplexes, single-family homes and townhomes.

Making Housing Choice work for you

- Provide complete and accurate information to Opelika Housing Authority (OHA).
- Find a suitable unit within 60 days of receiving your voucher.
- Allow inspection of your unit.
- Comply with family obligations to OHA.
- Take care of your Housing Choice unit and pay the rent on time.
- Comply with all the terms of your Housing Choice Lease & Addendum.
- Notify OHA of any family composition changes and of any income increases or decreases.
- Provide at least 30 days' notice in writing if you intend to vacate the assisted unit.

Waiting list

Generally, a family interested in participating in Housing Choice must apply to OHA when the waiting list is open and applications are being accepted. OHA must give public notice of when the waiting list will open and where applications will be taken. OHA advertises the notice in local newspapers, radio spots, at social service agencies, on this Web page, and in other locations available to applicants.

OHA's Housing Choice waiting list is presently closed.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List Opening (HCVP) closed on January 31, 2015. OHA is not accepting any additional pre-applications.

When will I receive a voucher?

As vouchers become available, you will be given an appointment to determine your eligibility for the Housing Choice Voucher Program. If you are determined to be eligible, OHA will issue a voucher.

OHA will notify you in writing if you have been selected for eligibility. Therefore, it is important that you notify OHA in writing if your contact information changes. No further information about the waiting list is available at this time. Please continue to visit the Opelika Housing Authority's website for information on other affordable housing opportunities.

HOUSING CHOICE PORTABILITY

Housing Choice vouchers are accepted by cities across the country, giving families real choice about where they live.

OHA's Housing Choice, however, serves only parts of Lee County. Because Lee County also having a neighboring Housing Authority in Auburn, [AL](#).

One of the most attractive features of Housing Choice is that rental assistance is "portable." In other words, it "moves" when you do.

If you move from one housing authority to another with a voucher program anywhere in the United States, you are eligible for continued assistance.

As with any move, you must give OHA and your landlord a **written 30-day notice**. However, depending on your lease, your landlord may require up to a **60-day notice**.

OHA will determine if there is a housing authority with a Housing Choice program in the area you wish to move. If there is, OHA will forward your information to that authority.

- Every housing authority has its own rules, regulations and deadlines. Contact the authority in your new area to get this information.
- Fair Market Rent limits or payment standards may be different.
- The utility allowances for the new Authority may be different and may affect the rent amount you pay.
- Subsidy standards may be different.
- A different voucher will be issued to you. The new housing authority may change the size of your voucher.
- When you move, the new authority will re-verify your income.
- Occupancy standards may be different.