

THE FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE (FYI):

ON DEMAND VOUCHERS FOR YOUTH

September 22, 2021

1:00 - 2:30 PM EST



HUD'S FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE (FYI) INITIATIVE EMERGED DIRECTLY FROM YOUTH

- The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities (FSHO) Coalition, led by ACTION Ohio, includes more than 55,000 foster care alumni and allies. Most of whom have been trained by the vast network of Youth Advisory Boards created by the partners on this call.
- For over six years, The FSHO Coalition worked in partnership with the National Center for Housing & Child Welfare, many of the organizations assembled on this webinar, foster youth champions on the Hill such as Reps. Turner and Bass, HUD and HHS to synchronize HUD's Family Unification Program with Chafee Independent Living Service to eliminate the gaps through which foster youth fall into homelessness.
- FYI capitalizes on the best services that child welfare and housing agencies have to offer – as well as the industriousness of the youth themselves.





THE COMMITMENT OF HUD AND HHS TO FYI AND THE YOUTH VOICE IS INVALUABLE

Since FYI was established in July 2019, nearly 1,550 youth have accessed safe, decent, affordable housing in 91 communities in 31 states. Thank you for joining us today to learn about how to expand FYI to all youth who can benefit from it nationwide.

AN OVERVIEW OF FYI AND A VIEW FROM THE FIELD

WHERE DID FYI
COME FROM AND
WHAT DOES IT DO?

What is the difference between FUP and FYI?

	FUP		FYI	
	FUP Families (estb. 1990)	FUP Youth (pre Oct. 2020)	FYI TPV (estb. 2019)	FYI (estb. Oct 6, 2020)
	Purpose	Family Preservation/Reunification	Ease the transition to adulthood & independence	Ease the transition to adulthood & independence
	Eligible Households	Families for whom housing is a primary risk for separation or barrier to reunification	Youth 18-25* who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including parenting youth	Youth 18-25* who are homeless or at risk of homelessness after age 16, including parenting youth
	Time limit	No limit if family is income eligible	36 months	36 months
	Services	Recommended for a year (post placement in housing), FSS encouraged.	Chafee-like IL 36 months	Chafee-like IL 36 months
	Eligible PHA	ACC	ACC, does not administer FUP	ACC
	Distribution	Competitive NOFA. Do not sunset. Can be reallocated if PHA no longer needs for families or youth elsewhere. Has a “waiting list” provision.	Non-Competitive (“on demand”), drawn from Tenant Protection Act, sunset	Non-Competitive (“on demand”), do not sunset but can be reallocated – youth only. Adds a “waiting list” provision.
	Notice length	47 Pages (link)	10 Pages (link)	12 Pages (link)

IL coordinator (or POC) and young person file FUP paperwork with PHA POC about 3- 6 months prior to leaving care

PHA requests FYI voucher(s) from HUD (HUD-52515)

HUD



HUD dispenses the funds "on demand" (ACC)

The Public Housing Authority

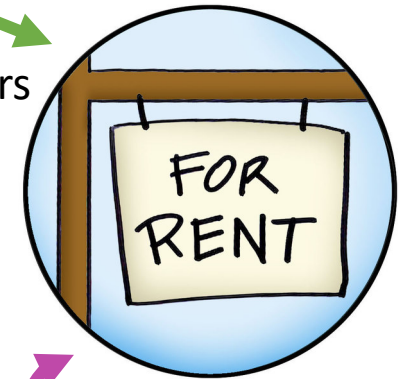


PHA Waiting List



*FSHO is conducted without further disadvantaging waiting list households

The PHA administers FYI to landlord and youth

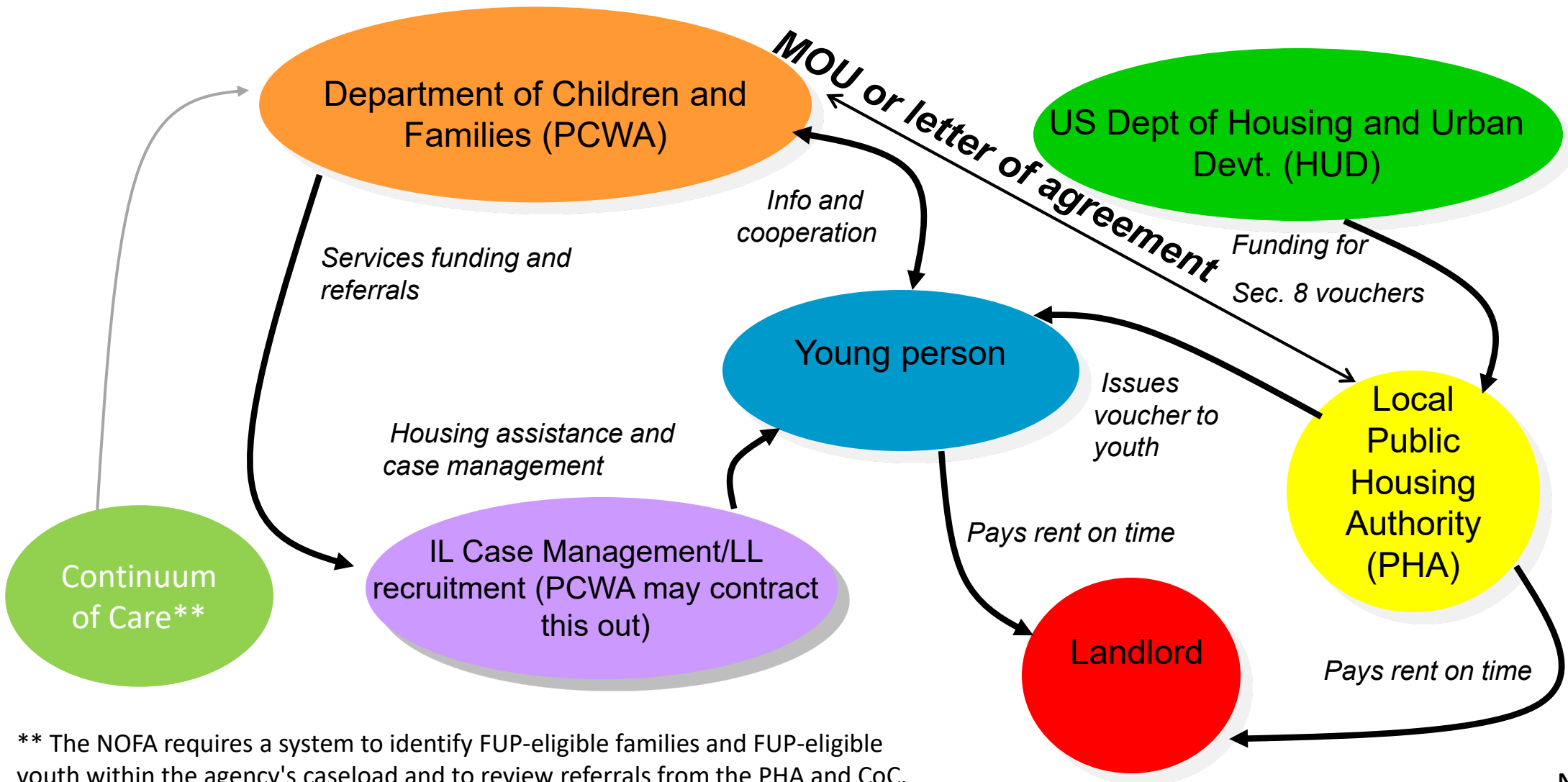


PCWA assists with landlord recruitment and positive youth development services for the duration of the voucher (36 months)

The Public Child Welfare Agency
Independent Living Coordinator



FYI Agency Partnership (based on FUP)



** The NOFA requires a system to identify FUP-eligible families and FUP-eligible youth within the agency's caseload and to review referrals from the PHA and CoC.

A LETTER OF INTENT IS AN ACCEPTABLE VERIFICATION OF SERVICES**

** PCWAs do not have to be the service provider, nor do they have to fund services.

FYI Sample Letter of Intent with a Co-Signing Organization that will make services available

PCWA Letterhead

[Type here]

Date

First Name Last Name, Executive Director

PHA Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

- Providing written certification to the PHA that a youth is FUP-eligible.
- Providing or secure a commitment for the provision of required supportive services.

Again, please accept our deepest appreciation as we all move forward to improve the lives of youth in our community who are transitioning to adulthood alone, without the support of a permanent family. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our public child welfare agency (PCWA) FYI point of contact: Contact Name, Position at 301-600-2639 or case management agency name point of contact, Contact name at contact telephone #.

Respectfully,

Name, Director

PCWA

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Name, Director

Name of Agency

Street Address

City, State, Zip

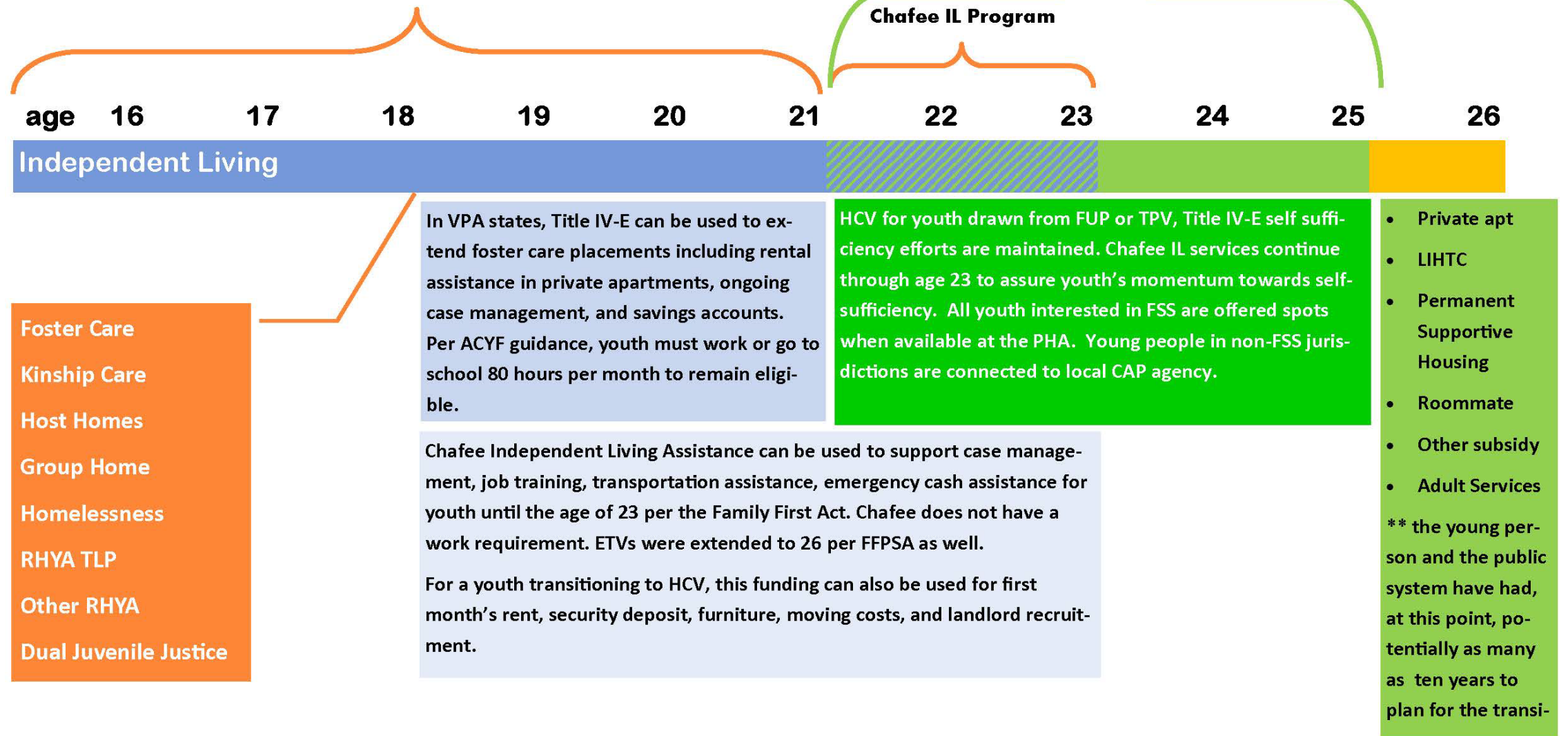
- Counseling on compliance with rental lease requirements and with HCV program participant requirements, including assistance/referrals for assistance on security deposits, utility hook-up fees, and utility deposits.



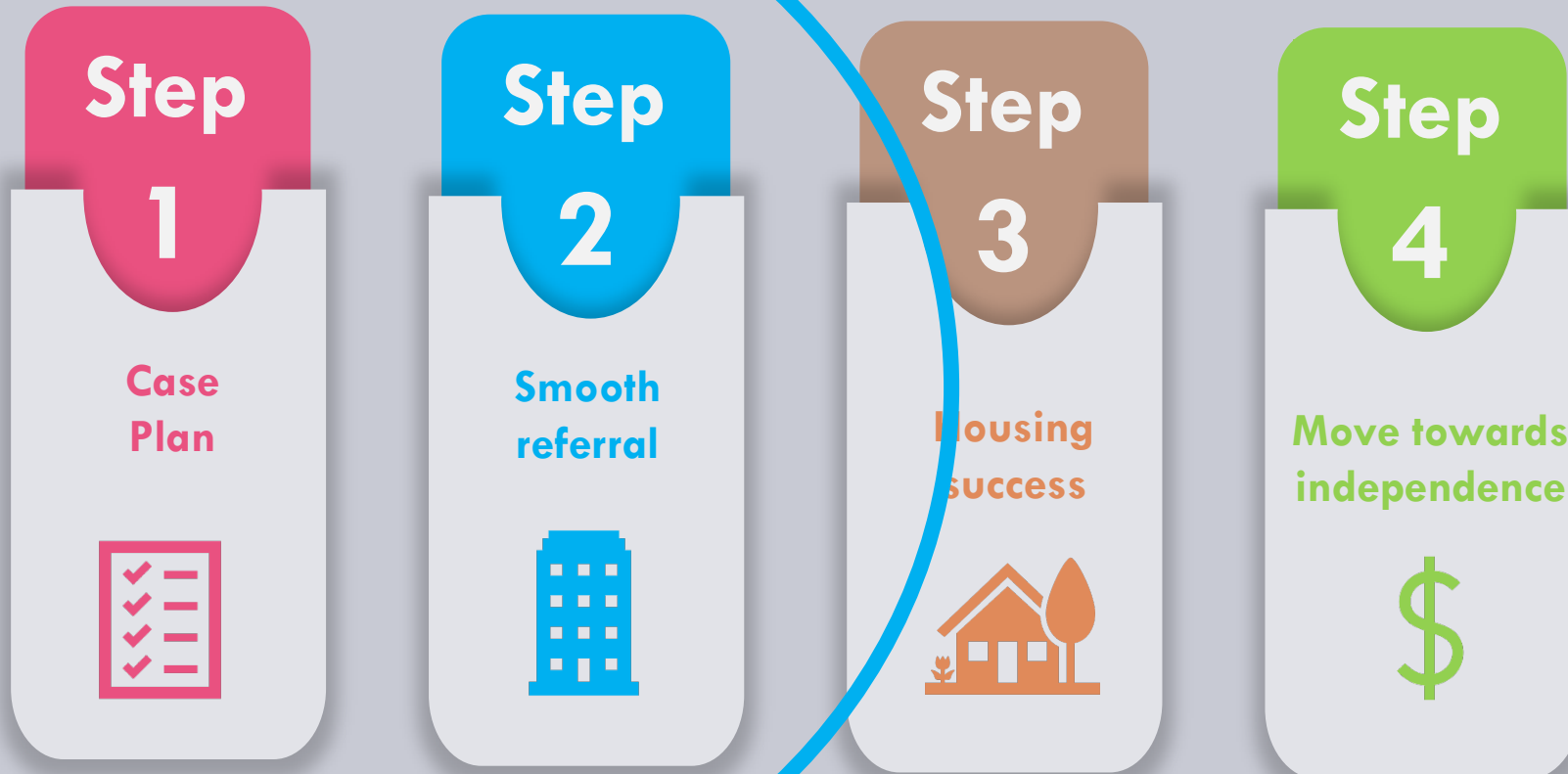
The Importance of the IL Coordinator

Funding source for housing options for youth under the age of 21 should be drawn from state and federal child welfare funds. HUD funding must not supplant funds available for foster care placements.

Funding Source is Housing Choice Voucher



The FYI/FUP process



Each partners' role will can and should be sorted out in the MOU or letter of agreement. Even though youth aren't listed in these documents – remember that they have the most responsibility here and should be encouraged to lead.

Where are the vouchers and the PHAs in VA?

- HUD has offers tools to help the general public locate PHAs and understand the number and type of vouchers available
- Visit the [Housing Choice Voucher Dashboard](#) to view vouchers at all PHAs (except “Moving to Work” agencies).
- List of PHAs and contact info: https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PHA_Contact_Report_VA.pdf

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PHA Name	PHA Code	FUP Total Effective Awards	FUP Total Leased	FUP % Leasing
Portsmouth Redevelopment & Housing Authority	VA001	48	0	0.00%
Newport News Redevelopment & Housing Authority	VA003	12	12	100.00%
Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority	VA004	44	37	84.09%
Norfolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority	VA006	10	0	0.00%
Danville Redevelopment & Housing Authority	VA010	77	69	89.61%
Roanoke Redevelopment & Housing Authority	VA011	81	53	65.43%
Chesapeake Redevelopment & Housing Authority	VA012	17	8	47.06%
Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority	VA014	50	37	74.00%
Fairfax County Redevelopment & Hsg Authority	VA019	175	163	93.14%
Arlington County Dept of Human Services	VA028	50	46	92.00%
Loudoun County Department of Family Services	VA035	10	8	80.00%
County of Albemarle/Office of Housing	VA036	25	20	80.00%
Prince William County Office of Hcd	VA046	50	43	86.00%
Virginia Housing Development Authority	VA901	25	0	0.00%
Total		674	496	73.59%



What is “Section 8” and
how do I find it?



What is “Section 8”

- The **housing choice voucher program** is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.
- A **housing subsidy is paid to the landlord** directly by the PHA on behalf of the participating family. The family then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. Under certain circumstances, if authorized by the PHA, a family may use its voucher to purchase a modest home.
- The PHA calculates the maximum amount of housing assistance allowable. The maximum housing assistance is generally the lesser of the payment standard minus 30% of the family's monthly adjusted income or the gross rent for the unit minus 30% of monthly adjusted income. **Therefore, generally a household will pay 30% of their income and the PHA pays the rest.**

How does the money exchange hands?

Everyone -- tenant, landlord and PHA -- has obligations and responsibilities under the voucher program.

- HUD and the PHA agree to an “annual contributions contract” based on the per unit cost in a neighborhood – and HUD dispenses the federal funds to the PHA
- The housing unit selected by the family must meet an acceptable level of health and safety before the PHA can approve the unit. If so, the landlord and the PHA sign a **housing assistance payments (HAP)** contract that runs for the same term as the lease.
- The tenant (voucher holder) and the landlord sign a year long lease. The tenant pays their “Total Tenant Payment” directly to the landlord.

Approaching your PHA partner



Take your PHA director to lunch



Bring information about the services you can provide (these should include the services listed in the FYI Notice)



Identify a point of contact for questions and referrals



Plan for regular communication



Build and nurture the relationship – provide cross-trainings



PCWAs can and should use tools for forecasting the youth who will need vouchers and when. This will be covered at length

QUESTIONS

