

# Subsidized Housing

**Subsidized housing is private housing where the renter has a subsidy to help pay for rent.** Housing vouchers are a major kind of housing subsidy. With a housing voucher, people with low to moderate income pay a part of that income each month towards rent. The remainder of the rent is paid by a local housing authority, regional administering agency, or other organization.

Some vouchers are **mobile**, meaning the voucher holder is the renter and it can follow the person when they move as long as they remain eligible. Other vouchers are **project-based**, meaning the property owner is the voucher holder and the voucher stays with the unit when the person moves.

[You can use the worksheet in our Finding Home guide to keep track of where you plan to search for housing and where you've applied.](#)

## State Housing Vouchers

Massachusetts offers two major housing voucher programs - the Alternative Housing Voucher Program and the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program.

### **Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program** for people with limited income

Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) is a state funded voucher program for people and families with low income. MRVP includes both mobile and project-based vouchers. You can apply for the MRVP through the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs (CHAMP).

### **Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs (CHAMP)** <https://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us/>

### **Alternative Housing Voucher Program** for people with disabilities

The Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) provides rental assistance to people with disabilities under the age 60, who either live in or are eligible to live in state-assisted elderly/disabled public housing. You can apply for the AHVP through the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs (CHAMP).

### **Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Programs (CHAMP)** <https://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us/>



# Federal Housing Vouchers

There are several federal housing voucher programs.

## **Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program** for people with limited income

Section 8 is a federal housing voucher program for people with low to moderate income. Section 8 includes both mobile and project-based vouchers. There are several ways to apply. You can apply at any regional administering agencies to be placed on the statewide waitlist that is maintained by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

### **Statewide Waitlist**

[www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-section-8-housing-choice-vouchers-program-hcvp](http://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-the-section-8-housing-choice-vouchers-program-hcvp)

*note that this waitlist is currently closed*

Most local housing authorities in Massachusetts with Section 8 vouchers participate in the Centralized Waiting List. You can apply to this list to be placed on the waitlists for each participating housing authority.

### **Massachusetts Section 8 Centralized Waiting List**

[www.affordablehousing.com/masscw/](http://www.affordablehousing.com/masscw/)

Some local housing authorities maintain their own waitlists. As you apply to the Centralized Waiting List, check your list of cities and towns from Part 2. If any of those cities or towns are not on the list of participants for the Centralized list, you can call that housing authority directly to ask about their Section 8 waitlist. You can also ask about project-based Section 8 vouchers and their waitlist and application process. Note that some of these waitlists may be limited to residents of that city or town, and some may be closed to new applicants.

### **Local Housing Authorities**

[www.mass.gov/info-details/local-housing-authority-contact-listing](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/local-housing-authority-contact-listing)

## **Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy Program** for people who are unhoused

The Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Program provides project-based housing assistance for people who are unhoused. The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) administers 5 Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation SRO developments. One of these developments is especially for people who are living with HIV or AIDS, two are for people who have veteran status. You can reach out to EOHLC to learn more about these developments and how to apply.

### **Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy Program**

[www.mass.gov/info-details/section-8-moderate-rehabilitation-single-room-occupancy-program](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/section-8-moderate-rehabilitation-single-room-occupancy-program)



## **HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program**

for veterans

The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program is a housing voucher program for veterans who have also have mental health conditions or substance use issues. VASH typically serves veterans who meet the federal definition of “chronically homeless” and their families. You can call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans for information on how to apply for VASH and other housing assistance programs for veterans.

### **National Call Center for Homeless Veterans**

1-877-424-3838

[www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp)

## **Section 8 Mainstream Program and Rental Assistance for Non-Elderly Persons with Disabilities**

for people with disabilities

The Section 8 Mainstream Program and Rental Assistance for Non-Elderly Persons with Disabilities (NED) are specialized housing voucher programs for people with disabilities and their families. You can use the Technical Assistance Center’s Database of Vouchers for People with Disabilities to find cities and towns that have these vouchers, and reach out to any housing authorities that do.

### **Section 8 Mainstream Program and Rental Assistance for Non-Elderly Persons with Disabilities**

[www.mass.gov/info-details/section-8-ned-designated-housing-and-one-year-mainstream-program](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/section-8-ned-designated-housing-and-one-year-mainstream-program)

### **Database of Vouchers for People with Disabilities**

[www.tacinc.org/resources/vouchers-database/](http://www.tacinc.org/resources/vouchers-database/)

### **Local Housing Authority Contact Listing**

[www.mass.gov/info-details/local-housing-authority-contact-listing](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/local-housing-authority-contact-listing)

## **Section 8 Family Unification Program**

for people with children who have DCF involvement

The Family Unification Program provides housing assistance to families with children who are in a foster care placement, at risk of a foster care placement, or who have been displaced due to domestic violence, as well as youth who have aged out of foster care. Applicants must have an open case with the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Speak with your DCF case worker to learn more about this program.

### **Section 8 Family Unification Program**

[www.mass.gov/info-details/section-8-family-unification-program](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/section-8-family-unification-program)



## **Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance**

for people living with HIV or AIDS

The Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance provides rental subsidies and support services for people living with HIV or AIDS. People involved in this program receive a housing voucher, housing counseling and search help, and other supportive services. Applicants must be referred by JRI Health.

### **Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance**

[www.mass.gov/info-details/section-8-tenant-based-rental-assistance-for-persons-with-hiv](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/section-8-tenant-based-rental-assistance-for-persons-with-hiv)

## **US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Multi-Family Housing Rentals**

for people with limited income who want to live in rural areas

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) also provides housing subsidies in rural areas around the country. These subsidies help fund a particular unit in a property. Eligible people with limited income can apply for these units, which typically have a waitlist. You can use the map linked below to find USDA subsidized rental properties. Reach out directly to the contact for each property to apply.

### **USDA Multi-Family Housing Rentals in Massachusetts**

<https://rdmfhrentals.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

