

Choice Housing Voucher Program

(formerly known as Section 8 Rental Assistance)

The Choice Housing Voucher Program (the old Section 8 program) is a rental assistance program for low income families. Hamilton Township is empowered to act as a Public Housing Agency (“PHA”) under NJSA 55:14A-56, administering the Choice Housing Voucher Program in its Community Development Program office. The program is funded by allocations received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Under this program, the PHA makes monthly housing assistance payments to a landlord on behalf of an eligible family. The family selects a decent, safe, and sanitary dwelling unit based on the size of the eligible family. PHA payments to the landlord help the family pay the rent. Participating families will pay approximately 30 % of their adjusted monthly income for the rent.

At the present time this program is **NOT** accepting new applications. The office stopped accepting new applications on 1 December 2002. This was advertised in the Trentonian and the Trenton Times in November 2002 as required by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations.

Currently we have over 600 people on the waiting list and those on the waiting list will be receiving letters of acceptance onto the program as their name comes up to the top of the list. This office will not divulge where a family stands on the waiting list or if they are on the list over the phone due to the Privacy Act.

This office will not confirm or deny participation of any family on our program on the phone or in writing unless the office has a “release of information” form signed by the participant.

Any changes in residency of those who have applied prior to 1 December 2002 and are still on our waiting list **must** report to the Office of Housing in writing along with proof of address and a picture ID.

It is greatly appreciated when a person on the waiting list notifies the department in writing that they no longer wish to be considered for the program through income change or moving out of the state of New Jersey. This advances the next person on the list. Once removed the family cannot be added back on unless the waiting list is reopened.

Participants are selected strictly on a “first come, first serve” basis determined by the date of the application is received.

There is no emergency assistance available at the current time. Referrals are made to the Mercer County Board of Social Services, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and other outside agencies.

Once selection is made a participant must be willing to come in for an interview, provide truthful disclosure of ALL income for all household members, and provide proof thereof.

The office does **not** provide the security deposit and/or monthly utility bill.

Changes in the size of the family or the family's income of those who are currently on the program **must be immediately** reported to the Office of Housing.

This program including the administration of it has little or no impact on the Township budget, since a majority of the funding is federally funded grant income.