

Board of Commissioners
Veronica G. Blount, Chairman

Neil S. Kessler
Marilyn B. Olds
Elliott M. Harrigan
Samuel S. Young, Jr.
Jonathan Coleman
Robley S. Jones
Robert J. Adams



Chief Executive Officer
Damon E. Duncan
901 Chamberlayne Parkway
P.O. Box 26887
Richmond, VA 23261-6887
804-780-4200
Fax 804-780-4689
TTY: Dial 7-1-1
www.rrha.com

COVID-19 UPDATE:

TEMPORARY CHANGES to Housing Choice Voucher Program Policies

Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) wants to ensure all of our families can access our housing programs safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, RRHA is making some temporary changes to our policies for our Housing Choice Voucher program (“HCVP”). These changes will make it easier for families to get housing assistance during this difficult time. Below is a list of changes RRHA will make to our HCVP policies.

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

If you use a Housing Choice Voucher, this might affect your rights.

1. Income verification.

When reporting your income to RRHA (at either an *annual* or *interim* re-exam), RRHA ensures the income you report is true by checking “third party” records, like your taxes or paystubs. RRHA knows it might be hard to get records about your income during the COVID-19 crisis. Because of this, you can request that RRHA let you *self-report* your income without “third party” records until the crisis is over. When the crisis is over, RRHA will check to make sure that the income you self-reported was accurate. If the income you reported was not true, RRHA is within our rights to take legal action. This could include charging you rent, retroactively.

2. Voucher term.

Once you receive a voucher from RRHA, or if you are moving your voucher to a new home, you normally have 120 days to find a home where you can use the voucher. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, RRHA will give an extra 60 days to any family asking for more time to find a place to live. This means that if you *ask* for the extra time, you will get a total of 180 days to find a place to live.

3. Over-income families.

Only families below a certain income level can use a voucher. Normally, if your family income goes up so much that RRHA pays no money to your landlord for more than 180 days, RRHA will terminate your voucher. During COVID-19, we know that you might need to add family members to your voucher, which may, in turn increase your family’s income. Because of the crisis, RRHA will not terminate your voucher until December 31, 2020 if your family income went up too much because you added someone to your voucher. **This applies to current HCVP families ONLY.**

4. Policy changes.

Before COVID-19 crisis, RRHA had to give you 30 days’ notice of changes to HCVP policies, like our HCVP “Administrative Plan.” Because of the crisis, RRHA has to make policy changes quickly to address emergencies. Until the crisis is over, RRHA might not give all 30 days’ notice before these changes take effect. During this time, RRHA will only make changes that make it easier for you to meet all the rules for HCVP.

5. Family Self-Sufficiency.

If you are part of the Family Self-Sufficiency program (“FSS”), RRHA will now consider the COVID-19 crisis when we review a request to extend your Contract of Participation.