

## Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) in the WI BOSCO

### **What are Emergency Housing Vouchers?**

The American Rescue Plan appropriated \$5 billion for:

- HCVs targeted to a specific population that will allow individuals and families to choose and lease safe, decent, and affordable housing;
- Renewal costs of EHV; and
- Admin fees for administrative costs and other eligible expenses defined by notice to facilitate leasing of EHVs.

70,000 Vouchers awarded to approximately 700 PHAs nationwide.

In the WI BOSCO:

- Brown County Housing Authority – 35 vouchers
- Kenosha County Housing Authority – 24 vouchers
- Sauk County Housing Authority – 15 vouchers
- Portage County Housing Authority – 15 Vouchers
- Wisconsin Housing & Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) – Will receive 343 vouchers to serve the 69 counties of the WIBOSCO and Racine.

HUD issued PIH Notice 2021-15, Emergency Housing Vouchers Operating Requirements on May 5, 2021.

EHV program is effective July 1, 2021.

EHVs sunset – After 9/30/23, PHAs may not reissue vouchers that “turn over” after this date.

### **Eligible Populations**

EHVs eligibility is limited to households who are:

- Homeless;
- At-risk of homelessness;
- Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; and
- Recently homeless, as determined by the Secretary, and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the household’s homelessness or having high risk of housing instability.

### **Key alternative requirements**

- Restrictions of denial of admission for criminal background
- Waiving third-party income and citizenship verification at admission
- Increased search term to 120 days
- PHAs may establish a separate payment standard from the regular HCV program, including for areas smaller than the jurisdiction of the PHA

### **The role of the WI Balance of State Continuum of Care**

The COC has a critical role in identifying who should receive an EHV and referring that household to PHA.

- The COC worked with the BOS membership through the COC Coordinated Entry Committee to determine the best use and targeting for EHV's.
- EHV's will not be filled from PHA's current waiting list- all EHV's are referred from the COC Coordinated Entry System in accordance with the order of priority established by the COC.
- The COC (and the CE Lead/SSO staff in each local homeless coalition) is responsible for determining whether the household qualifies under one of the four eligibility categories for EHV's.
- The COC (and the CE Lead/SSO staff in each local homeless coalition) is responsible for ensuring eligible households have been assessed and have chosen to move on to EHV's.

### **The role of Coordinated Entry (CE) Lead/Supportive Services Only for Coordinated Entry (SSO CE) staff**

CE leads and SSO staff will play a critical role in ensuring referrals and information are expedited efficiently between the CoC/EHH funded agencies, the COC, and the PHAs.

- CE Leads/SSO staff will work with the household's case managers to collect the PHA's required paperwork, the BOS Move On assessment, the household ROI, and the homeless verification form.
- CE Leads/SSO staff will ensure these referrals are sent, in a secure fashion, to the PHA in accordance with the order of priority established by the COC.
- CE Leads/SSO staff will document referrals to the PHA on the COC EHV tracking document.

### **The role of CoC funded PSH and RRH agencies (EHH \* *see below*)**

COC funded PSH and RRH agencies will play a critical role in determining households eligible and ready for EHV's.

- These agencies and their case managers will work with the household to assess whether the household is ready to move on and if the client chooses to do so.
- These agencies and their case managers will work with the household to fill out any paperwork required by the PHA.
- These agencies and their case managers will assist the household to fill out the release of information form and homeless verification for the EHV program.
- These agencies and their case managers will send the referrals and required documents to the CE Leads/SSO staff in accordance with the COC order of priority for EHV.

*\*note – If the Local Homeless Coalition does not have a CoC funded project or all CoC funded project recipients have been served, ESG funded RRH recipients can then be served if those households have been determined ready to move on using a CoC approved move on tool AND the unit has passed an HQS inspection.*

### **The role of the Public Housing Authority (PHA)**

- PHAs must accept referrals for EHV's directly from the COC Coordinated Entry System.