

Emergency Housing Voucher Program

The Allentown Housing Authority has been awarded 43 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

I. Introduction and Goals:

- a. The Allentown Housing Authority (AHA) and Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care (CoC) commit to collaborating in the administration of the Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs), as defined in Notice PIH 20121-15, and subsequent notices issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- b. PHA and CoC's goals and standards of success in administering the program.
 - a. **Goal 1:** Provide EHVs to eligible households.
 - b. **Goal 2:** Fully utilize all EHVs as expeditiously as possible.
 - c. **Goal 3:** Prioritize households for EHVs, via the use of preferences in a manner that fills existing gaps within the CoC's inventory. The preferences are as follows:
 - i. **Preference 1** - Households who were recently homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability (including households currently residing in rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing).
 - ii. **Preference 2** - Households experiencing homelessness.
 - iii. **Preference 3** - Households who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking.
 - iv. **Preference 4** - Households who are at risk of experiencing homelessness.
 - d. **Goal 4:** Reduce homelessness in the CoC through the utilization of EHVs.
 - e. **Goal 5:** Support households accepted into the EHV program through supportive services, to ensure ongoing stability of the household. Supportive services include but are not limited to:
 - i. Short- or long-term case management
 - ii. Collecting necessary verifications to support referrals
 - iii. Housing counseling
 - iv. Housing search assistance
 - v. Utility deposit assistance
 - f. **Goal 6:** Improve cross-agency coordination among AHA and Eastern Pennsylvania CoC.

II. Populations eligible for EHV assistance to be referred by CoC:

In order to be eligible for an EHV, an individual or family must meet one of four eligibility categories:

1. **Homeless** - *as defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a)), which is codified in HUD's Continuum of Care Program regulations at 24 CFR 578.3, and includes, but is not limited to, households residing in a place not meant for habitation, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground; and in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements.*
2. **At risk of homelessness** – *as defined in section 401(1) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(1)), which is codified in HUD's Continuum of Care Program regulations at 24 CFR 578.3.*
3. **Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking** - *households who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking.*
4. **Recently homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability (including households currently residing in rapid rehousing or permanent supportive housing).** - *Recently homeless is defined as individuals and families who have previously been classified by a member agency of the CoC as homeless but are not currently homeless as a result of homeless assistance (financial assistance or services), temporary rental assistance or some type of other assistance, and where the CoC or its designee determines that the loss of such assistance would result in a return to homelessness or the family having a high risk of housing instability. Examples of households that may be defined as recently homeless by the CoC include, but are not limited to, participants in rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing*

If you believe you are eligible to receive an Emergency Housing Voucher please contact the CoC through the coordinated entry program by dialing 211 on your phone.

<https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/balance-state/eastern-pa-coc>