

CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY

WAITING LISTS AND PREFERENCES

The Preference System (see Preference System fact sheet for more info)

CHA's preference system gives certain applicants an opportunity to be housed ahead of applicants who do not have a preference. A preference will be granted to applicants who qualify for housing assistance and meet one of the following criteria:

- Permanent resident of Cambridge on the date of application
- Living in or relocated from a Cambridge shelter or transitional facility
- Employed or about to be employed in the city of Cambridge
- Veteran

Emergency Status (see Emergency Status fact sheet for more info)

The Emergency Status process allows those who qualify for housing assistance to move to the top of a waiting list. Applicants claiming emergency status must first qualify for a preference and then meet the following criteria:

- Victim of incident of domestic violence within Cambridge
- For voucher assistance, an applicant is a Cambridge resident whose shelter burden (rent plus Section 8 Utility Allowance) has increased to 50% or more of his/her monthly adjusted income and owner agrees to enter into a voucher contract for a minimum of one year
- Left housing due to natural disaster, given notice to vacate without knowledge of issues, "no fault" eviction, individual with disabilities whose condition has changed within the last 90 days

Public Housing Waiting List (Family 1BR Waitlist Currently Closed)

The **Family Public Housing** waitlist is available to all income eligible applicants 18 years of age or over or emancipated minors. The **Elderly/Disabled** waitlist is open to applicants 58 years of age or over, as well as individuals with disabilities that are at least 18 or an emancipated minor.

- Applicants can submit an application with up to **3 property choices**
- A separate waiting list is maintained for each property by bedroom size
- Applicants can change their selections **once per year**
- Applications are categorized on the waiting list in one of the following groups: Emergencies, Preference, Non-Preference, and then sorted by the date of application
- Applicants should only submit **one initial application** and the correct form should be used to change development choice or household composition

Public Housing inquiries during walk-in office hours: John Ziniewicz Thursdays 10AM – 2PM

Single Room Occupancy (SRO):

The Single Room Occupancy program provides applicants the opportunity to live in shared housing with other SRO participants. Residents are provided a single room with a lock and key, shared kitchens and bathrooms. Applicants are screened by the property owner and if found eligible are offered a subsidized room with shared facilities. These SRO units are especially useful for individuals that need to build housing history to qualify for family or elderly/disabled housing.

Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Waiting List: (HCV Waitlist Currently Closed)

Also known as the Section 8 Voucher Program, the HCV program is open to all income eligible applicants 18 years of age and over or emancipated minors regardless of disability status. Applicants that are found eligible and receive a voucher need to find housing in the private market. Applicants that apply for the Housing Choice Voucher Program should expect to participate in a screening to assure that they meet program eligibility guidelines.

Key Facts

Applications for different waitlists are color-coded :

Family **Pink**
Elderly/Disabled **Green**
HCV Program **Blue**
SRO Program **Yellow**

Each CHA property has its own waiting list

There are over **11,000** applicants waiting for housing from the CHA

Applicants that are eligible for a preference will be housed before applicants without one.

Elderly/Disabled housing includes only 11 two-bedroom units and no three or four-bedrooms

Applicants can check their status on any waiting list by calling **(617) 864-3020**

Visit www.cambridge-housing.org to learn more and contact CHA staff with inquiries