

CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY

PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM

Through its state and federal public housing programs, the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) provides over 2,500 households throughout the City of Cambridge with safe, quality affordable housing. CHA's commitment to providing the highest quality in affordable housing to its residents is highlighted by the agency's current construction projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Nearly \$29 million in federal stimulus grants have enabled CHA to revitalize several developments, strengthening its already industry-leading housing stock.

To adequately address the housing needs of Cambridge residents, the CHA manages separate housing programs for Family applicants and Elderly/Disabled applicants. CHA provides a number of services to its residents in addition to housing, including medical, nutritional and supportive social services to Elderly/Disabled tenants, and educational and vocational services to those in the Family program. The combination of high quality affordable housing and wide array of social services for residents sets CHA apart from the rest as a public housing agency.

Eligibility for Public Housing

An individual is eligible for public housing if he/she meets the following criteria:

- Household income does not exceed 80% of the Area Median Income of Cambridge
- For **Family Public Housing**, the applicant must be 18 years of age or over, or is an emancipated minor
- For **Elderly/Disabled Public Housing**, the applicant must be at least 58 years old, or have a disability and be at least 18 or an emancipated minor

Applying for Public Housing

The following is a list of important information to know when considering applying for CHA's public housing program:

- 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 they are sorted by the date the application was submitted
- Applicants should only submit **one initial application** and the correct form should be used to change development choice or household composition

Rent Simplification

In 2006, CHA implemented the MTW Rent Simplification program (RSP) to change the way the agency determined the rent paid by tenants. Prior to RSP, CHA followed national standards in rent policy by basing tenants' rent on 30 percent of their income. Under the current policy, tenants pay a certain amount depending on which \$2,500 band their income falls within. This seeks to encourage self-sufficiency among CHA residents by allowing them to increase employment income without increasing their rents.

Key Facts

- **There are two categories of public housing, Family and Elderly/Disabled, each with different eligibility requirements and services**
- **Applicants can choose 3 sites to apply to, and are placed on a waiting list for each site**
- **Rent is determined by which \$2,500 income band a tenant's income falls on**

Public Housing Inventory

Total Conventional Units	2,520
Family Units	1,421
Elderly/Disabled Units	1,092

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