

Voucher Allotments for Specific Populations

Missoula Housing Authority | Missoula

Goals and Activities

For the first time in decades, MHA successfully competed for new Section 8 vouchers in three different opportunities – and was awarded in all three! MHA applied for 20 Mainstream vouchers which serve non-elderly disabled. In earlier rounds of this extremely competitive national application, agencies received a fraction of their request if any. MHA was awarded all 20 vouchers. They are targeted to disabled families who were homeless and are in rapid rehousing programs and for those in segregated settings, such as group homes. MHA also joined with the VA to request HUD VASH vouchers to serve homeless vets. We were awarded 32, which was higher than expected. Finally, HUD issued a Notice launching the Foster Youth for Independence program, providing vouchers to young adults between 18 and 25 years old who have been or are leaving foster care and are homeless or at risk of being homeless. All three programs require partnerships, such as with the YWCA Missoula, Opportunity Resources Inc., The VA, and Missoula Youth Homes. All three began leasing in Feb. 2020.

Major Outcomes

Provide stable, long-term housing for these people. Free up other vouchers for other eligible applicants. Our goal is to fully lease all 75 vouchers to serve these special populations. Further, the HUD VASH vouchers are part of a community collaboration to end homelessness for veterans in Missoula. The Youth vouchers are one piece in an emerging strategy to address homelessness among youth and will dovetail with the larger statewide grant. One goal of the Mainstream vouchers is to improve long term outcomes for disabled families in rapid rehousing since they may not be able to increase earned income.

Questions?

Contact Director of HUD Programs,
Jim McGrath | jmcgrath@missoulahousing.org

Populations Served

Missoula. Homeless vets; non-elderly disabled from rapid re-housing or group homes; young adults between 18 and 24 having been in foster care

Major Partners and Funders

Funders: HUD, VA, and partners mentioned: YWCA Missoula, Missoula Youth Homes, DPHHS, Summit Independent Living, C of C., VA



Missoula
Housing
AUTHORITY

Advice for Others

Do it! Think strategically about who you will serve and how before beginning. Even with a solid plan, these hard to house populations take longer and more work to serve. The best part of these were developing or expanding partnerships. In several case, MHA had been trying to figure out a partnership for years with these players and this was the opportunity that came through.