

Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program

What are Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs):

- The American Rescue Plan (ARP) of 2021 appropriated \$5 billion for the EHVs
- 70,000 were awarded to appr. 700 Housing Authorities
- Contra Costa received 201 vouchers
- Separate from Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program
- All referrals must come through the Continuum of Care's (CoC's) Coordinated Entry (CE) System or from a Victim Service Provider
- EHV eligibility is limited to households (individuals and families) 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, and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent homelessness or risk of housing instability

Prioritization of EHVs in Contra Costa

The Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa County, in partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health of Contra Costa, has established the following Prioritization for issuing EHVs.

- **Category 1 – Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) - Moving On**
Qualifies under EHV Eligibility Category 4 Recently Homeless: Section 8 defines this as individuals and families who have previously been classified by the Continuum of Care (CoC) as homeless but are not currently homeless as a result of homelessness assistance (financial or services), temporary rental assistance, etc. and where the CoC or its designee determines that the loss of such assistance would result in a return to homelessness. Examples of such households may include (but are not limited to) participants in PSH.
- **Category 2 – Homeless/Sheltered Long Stayers**
Qualifies under EHV Eligibility Category 1: Homeless: Long-Term Stayers is defined as households who have been living in a county shelter for six months or longer.

How to Apply

If you are an applicant on the Housing Choice Voucher waitlist and meet one of the above criteria, you may apply for an Emergency Housing Voucher through a Contra Costa County homeless service provider that you may already be working with. If you are not currently working with a homeless service provider, please call 2-1-1 to be connected to the appropriate

services. Your provider may work with you on completing an assessment that will be submitted to our partnering organization – Contra Costa Coordinated Entry System for referral.

Applications for an EHV submitted without a referral will not be accepted.

Emergency Housing Voucher Program Payment Standards

Families participating in the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program benefit from a subsidy each month to help pay their rent and utilities. The subsidy varies for each family depending upon the family’s size and income.

The Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa has established payment standards for the EHV program set at 110% of the HUD-established Fair Market Rents (FMRs). The payment standards is the maximum amount of assistance a family can receive based on HUD funding.

NOTE: This is not the maximum rent that can be charged by landlords. This is the maximum amount a family can receive, but monthly assistance may be different. The amount of rent a landlord can charge must be “reasonable” when compared to unassisted rental units in the neighborhood with similar amenities.

The chart below shows the applicable EHV Payment Standards, by bedroom size, for Contra Costa County.

	0-BR	1-BR	2-BR	3-BR	4-BR	5-BR	6-BR	7-BR
PS	\$1,691	\$2,038	\$2,501	\$3,306	\$3,935	\$4,525	\$5,116	\$5,706

EHV FAQ’s & Information

To access HUD’s Emergency Housing Voucher PIH notice 2021-15, please visit <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-15.pdf>

To access HUD EHV materials including webinars, office hours, and public notices, please visit <https://www.hud.gov/ehv>.

For Frequently Asked Questions, click [here](#).