



PORTABILITY FACT SHEET

Housing Choice Voucher Program

What is portability?

Portability is the right to move, with assistance, to any jurisdiction in the U.S. where there is a Section 8 voucher program.

Should I stay or should I go?

If you move to another area, the rules and policies of that public housing agency (PHA) will apply to you. This includes their payment standards, occupancy standards and utility allowances, which may cause a change in your subsidy amount. You may be subject to criminal background screening. If you do move, you will be expected to stay in the new area for at least 12 months, so choose your new unit carefully.

Am I eligible for portability?

New to the program: If you are a nonresident applicant (if you are out-of-jurisdiction at the time of your initial application to the program), you are not eligible for portability until after you live in this jurisdiction with voucher assistance for at least 12 months. If you were in jurisdiction at the time of application, you are eligible for portability. The receiving PHA will re-determine your eligibility based on their program's income limits; you may or may not be eligible. Please contact the PHA in the area where you wish to move, and find out their policies before you decide to move there.

Current participants: To be eligible for portability, you must first be eligible to move with continued assistance. You cannot have violated the terms of the lease or any program regulations, and you cannot owe any money to the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority. If you are currently residing in an assisted unit, you must give proper written notice to terminate your lease. If you vacate your current unit in violation of your lease, you will not be permitted to use portability.

- Did you give the landlord proper notice? We must receive a copy.
- Do you owe the landlord money?

How do I request to use portability?

If you are eligible for portability and would like to move to another jurisdiction, you must submit a written request to transfer (see Portability Request form). If you do not know the information for the PHA in the area where you wish to move (please refer to the enclosed list of local housing authorities), please tell your HCV Specialist where the area where you wish to move is located, and we will provide you with local PHA information.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

- To exercise portability, you must be holding a current, valid voucher.
- Wherever you choose to live, you must locate a unit before the voucher expires.
- Make sure the receiving housing authority has your current address and contact information.
- Contact us at 540-434-7386, with any questions about your transfer.