

Chapter 19

HUD-VASH

INTRODUCTION

Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority (CKHA) also operates the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program. The HUD-VASH program combines HUD Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at its medical centers.

This chapter describes HUD regulations and CKHA policies related to these special programs created through this targeted funding:

Part I: Special Procedures – HUD-VASH

Part II: Requirements for Participants in the HUD-VASH Program

Part III: HUD-VASH Portability

PART I: SPECIAL PROCEDURES – HUD-VASH

19-I.A. SPECIAL PROCEDURES – HUD-VASH

Although HUD-VASH vouchers are administered in accordance with the HCV regulations at 24 CFR 982, the 2008 Appropriations Act authorized the HUD Secretary to waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any provision of any statute or regulation deemed necessary for effective delivery and administration of the HUD-VASH program.

This chapter provides the key waivers and alternative requirements as designated by the HUD Secretary for the HUD-VASH program and changes in CKHA policy as may be required to implement the HUD-VASH program.

All regulations of 24 CFR 982 apply to the HUD-VASH program unless the HUD Secretary has indicated otherwise. Throughout this chapter the designation “VAMC” shall mean the CKHA’s partnering Veteran’s Affairs Medical Center(s) unless otherwise indicated.

19-I.B. FAMILY/PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY FOR HUD-VASH PROGRAM

Partnering Veteran Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC) will refer HUD-VASH eligible families to CKHA for the determination of income eligibility. Written documentation of these referrals must be maintained in the tenant file at CKHA.

DD-214 certificates must be accepted as verification of SSNs and birthdates. VA identification cards must be accepted as government-issued photo identification, and they can also verify SSNs and birthdates.

When new family members are added after the Veteran is a participant, 24 CFR 982.551(h)(2) and regular CKHA screening criteria apply.

19-I.C. WAITING LIST AND PREFERENCES

CKHA does not have the authority to maintain a waiting list or apply local preferences for HUD-VASH vouchers. The HUD Secretary has waived 24 CFR sections 982.202, 982.204, and 982.207 relating to applicant selections from the waiting list, cross listing of the waiting list and opening and closing the waiting list. 24 CFR sections 982.203, 982.205, and 982.206 regarding special admissions, cross-listing and opening and closing the waiting list also do not apply.

19-I.D. SCREENING FOR CRIMINAL HISTORY

The VAMC will screen all families in accordance with its screening criteria. CKHA does not have the authority to screen potentially eligible families or deny assistance because of criminal history for any grounds permitted under 24 CFR 982.552 and 982.553 with one exception. In accordance with 24 CFR 982.553(a)(2)(i), CKHA shall conduct criminal history screening to determine whether any member of the household is subject to a lifetime registration required under a state sex offender registration program. CKHA shall prohibit admission of a family if any member of the household is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program.

19-I.E. TERMINATIONS AND DENIALS

By agreeing to participate in the HUD-VASH program, CKHA relinquishes its authority to deny assistance for any of the grounds permitted under 24 CFR 982.552 (broad authority to deny participation for violation of program requirements and for any grounds permitted under 24 CFR 982.553 except for the prohibition against registered sex offenders).

As a consequence all grounds for denial of participation including denial due to lack of citizenship, the family having committed fraud, owing money to any PHA and the like are not applicable to applicants to the HUD-VASH program.

PART II: REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE HUD-VASH PROGRAM

19-II.A. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE HUD-VASH PROGRAM

Notwithstanding CKHA's lack of authority to deny admission to the HUD-VASH applicants, all the requirements for participants in assisted housing programs and all the grounds for termination of participant families remain in effect. CKHA's right to disapprove a live-in aide also remains in effect.

19-II.B. AUTHORITY TO TERMINATE FOR FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE IN CASE MANAGEMENT

As a condition of HCV rental assistance in the HUD-VASH program, a HUD-VASH family must receive case management services from a VAMC. A HUD-VASH participant family's assistance must be terminated for failure to participate in case management services without good cause as verified by the VAMC.

19-II.C. WHEN CASE MANAGEMENT IS NO LONGER NEEDED

A VAMC determination that a participant HUD-VASH family no longer requires case management services is not grounds for termination of HUD-VASH assistance. So long as the family remains in compliance with other program regulations, it may receive continued assistance under the HUD-VASH program.

A HUD-VASH family that the VAMC certifies no longer needs case management services may apply for a voucher under the HCV Program.

Under such circumstances, CKHA shall conduct a full criminal history check to determine whether the family should be admitted to the program in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 12, Terminations of Assistance and Tenancy, of this Administrative Plan. The family must meet citizenship and all other requirements to be admitted to the regular HCV program.

19-II.D. INCOME ELIGIBILITY

CKHA will determine income eligibility for the HUD-VASH program as it does for the HCV Program in accordance with 24 CFR 982.201.

19-II.E. INCOME TARGETING

Income targeting requirements of 24 CFR 982.201(b)(2) do not apply for HUD-VASH families. CKHA may choose to include the admission of extremely low income targeting numbers for the fiscal year in which these families are admitted to the HUD-VASH program.

19-II.F. INITIAL TERM OF THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER

HUD-VASH vouchers must have an initial search term of 120 days, or such other number of days as may be designated by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for the HUD-VASH program. 24 CFR 982.303(a) which states that the initial search term of a voucher must be at least 60 calendar days shall not apply since the initial search term must be at least 120 consecutive days.

19-II.G. EXTENSIONS

Regular Extensions, shall not apply to the HUD VASH program. Except where required as a reasonable accommodation, the HUD-VASH voucher will expire after the initial term of 120 consecutive days.

19-II.H. INITIAL LEASE TERM

To provide a greater range of housing opportunities for HUD-VASH voucher holders, initial leases may be for periods of less than 12 months. The HUD Secretary has waived 24 CFR 982.309(a)(2)(ii).

CKHA will continue to require an initial lease of 12 months.

PART III: HUD-VASH PORTABILITY

19-III.A. HUD-VASH PORTABILITY

The HUD Secretary has made the following determinations with regard to portability in the HUD-VASH program.

19-III.B. PORTABILITY RESTRICTIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE VAMC

HUD-VASH families must receive case management services provided by the VAMC to participate in the HUD-VASH program. HUD-VASH families may only reside in those areas that are accessible to case management services as determined by the partnering VAMC.

19-III.C. LOCALITY RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS DO NOT APPLY

Because the VAMC is responsible for identifying families eligible to participate in the HUD-VASH program, 24 CFR 982.353(a), (b), and (c) which affect where a family can lease a unit with HCV assistance do not apply.

19-III.D. PORTABILITY MOVES WHERE THE INITIAL PHA'S PARTNERING VAMC WILL PROVIDE CASE MANAGEMENT

If the HUD-VASH family initially leases up, or moves, under portability and the family will receive case management services from the initial PHA's partnering VAMC, the receiving PHA must process the move in accordance with the portability procedures of 24 CFR 982.355. The receiving PHA must bill the initial PHA. In these cases 24 CFR 982.355(d) is not applicable and the receiving PHA may not absorb the family.

19-III.E. PORTABILITY WHERE THE RECEIVING PHA'S PARTNERING VAMC WILL PROVIDE CASE MANAGEMENT

If the HUD-VASH family wishes to move under the portability but the initial PHA's partnering VAMC is unable to provide case management services, the initial PHA's partnering VAMC must first determine that the HUD-VASH family could be served by another VAMC that is participating in the HUD-VASH program. The receiving PHA must have a HUD-VASH voucher available for the family. The receiving PHA must absorb the family as a new admission (initial voucher), or as portability move in.

Upon absorption, the initial PHA's HUD-VASH voucher will be available to lease to a new HUD-VASH eligible family. The absorbed family will count towards the number of HUD-VASH slots awarded to the receiving PHA.

19-III.F. TURNOVER OF HUD-VASH VOUCHERS

In accordance with the 2008 Appropriations Act of 2008, upon turnover, HUD-VASH vouchers must be issued only to eligible families identified by the partnering VAMC. CKHA cannot use HUD-VASH vouchers for any other purpose.