



HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER LANDLORD/CLIENT BULLETIN INFORMATION

July, 2013

SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER RENTAL LISTING

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program has partnered with www.Gosection8.com, which provides an enhanced program to list rental properties on line. Listings are available to families relocating or potential Housing Choice Voucher tenants seeking apartment units, duplexes, single-family homes or townhomes in the private market.

Enclosed is a card that provides information on getting started with using our new rental listing services. Soon the link to rental listing will be provided on our Department Housing Choice Voucher program website.

We are excited about this service as the process is user-friendly, allows landlords to upload pictures of their properties, provides direction to the property and provides information about the neighborhood.

Our customers will be able to contact our rental information services at 866-466-7328 | email: landlordsupport@gosection8.com | tenantsupport@gosection8.com | website: www.gosection8.com .

Please contact our www.gosection8.com right away to list available properties, update information for current listing or find available property for leasing.

FUNDING CUTS FOR THE SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER (HCV) PROGRAM

Due to the March 1, 2013 across-the-board, 5% federal spending that occurred as a result of sequestration, the Wichita Housing Authority (and all other housing agencies) has received significant funding cuts in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program.



Funding cuts have led to furloughing Housing Authority employees, closing our offices every other Friday, and several position vacancies not being filled. This has led to an increased workload for our current staff.

For several years the HCV program has undergone decreases in funding and we are fortunate that our partners (over 800 landlords and 2,500 families) have accepted the cost-saving strategies we have implemented such as: eliminating registered/certified mailing of termination notices; no appointments with Housing Specialists on Tuesday and Thursday; and lowered 2011 payment standards.

Our office is continuing to find ways to streamline processes to reduce costs and still provide quality services. It is our hope as we continue to implement cost saving strategies that you will understand and continue to work with us now and in the future.

This Landlord/Client Bulletin provides some cost strategies that are being implemented and/or anticipated to be included in our business practices:

- Denying rent increases (Immediately)
- Changing Annual Recertification Dates for Clients and Units (Anticipate for 2014)
- Changing mailing dates for rental assistance payment (Anticipate for 2014)
- Freezing or lowering Payment Standards (Anticipate for 2014)
- Inspection fee for 3 or more visits caused by failure of landlord to have repairs completed (Researching fee charged by other Housing Authorities)

Our focus is to continue to maintain our current families and continue to assist eligible families on our waiting list.

We appreciate your participation in the Housing Choice Voucher Program and thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter. If you have questions, please contact the Specialist assigned to your specific tenant or case file.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER DIVISION WEBSITE INFORMATION FOR LANDLORDS AND CLIENTS

Information is posted at our website to keep you informed on new or existing regulations or practices that impact you.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAMS WEBSITE: <http://www.wichita.gov> Select Housing under City Departments and our website is located under Housing. Our website is one of the tools we will be utilizing to provide important information to you as landlords and clients. We are suggesting that you check the website at least bi-weekly for new information.



FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM FOR HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER CLIENTS

If you have ever dreamed of: finishing high school or college; finding a better job and better wages; moving up the career ladder; starting your own business; building a savings account-just by earning income; buying your own home; showing your kids a new path ... then check out the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. For more information call our office at 316-462-3700.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT OFFICE CLOSING DATES FOR 2013

Listed below are future dates when our office will be closed:

Friday, July 19, 2013
Friday, August 2, 2013
Friday, August 16, 2013
Friday, August 30, 2013
Friday, September 13, 2013
Friday, September 27, 2013
Friday, October 11, 2013
Friday, October 25, 2013
Friday, November 8, 2013
Friday, November 22, 2013
Friday, December 6, 2013

We apologize for any inconveniences these furlough and closing days may cause and will work to minimize any negative impacts on our customers.

Housing Choice Voucher Division Mission . . . to provide affordable decent, safe and sanitary housing choices for Wichita citizens through a variety of programs while promoting self-sufficiency.

Contact Information:

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