



Final Transcript

HUD - US DEPT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT: Emergency Housing Vouchers

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SPEAKERS

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Chad Ruppel
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Caroline Crouse
Emily Warren
Ben
Dave Vargas

PRESENTATION

Moderator Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for standing by and welcome to the Emergency Housing Vouchers conference call. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode. [Operator instructions]. As a reminder, today's conference is being recorded.

And I would now like to turn the conference over to our host, Ms. Virginia Holman. Please go ahead.

Virginia

Thank you very much and welcome, everybody, to today's really important webinar on Emergency Housing Vouchers. It's something that has just come up recently. It's being presented by the Office of Public and Indian Housing, and Community Planning and Development.

One note I want to make before we move on is there was an error initially in the participant code, it is not showing correctly on your screen, 3498790. So if you've been unable to call in, do call in.

Now I want to go over a few logistics before I turn it over to our speakers. As the operator said, the audio is being recorded. We will be posting a playback number along with a PowerPoint and a written transcript in the archive section on our HUD Exchange page. And that usually takes about a week.

I did send out the PowerPoint as a PDF this morning. It's also available in the handout section in your control panel on the right-hand side of your screen. And all you need to do is click on the document name to start the download.

Because of the large number of people we have, we are not going to take live questions over the phone, but we do want your questions. So there is a question panel, which a lot of you have already found, on the right-hand side of your screen in that control panel. So just write your question.

There are staff monitoring those questions, and we'll try to get to as many answers as we can today.

If after the webinar is over, and anytime in the future, you can go to housing.counseling@hud.gov to send any questions or comments, both on this topic and any other topic.

If you have logged on to the webinar, you're going to receive a certificate of training. It will come from GoToWebinar in about 48 hours. You need to print it out and save it for your records.

Also something to bookmark is our training digest—again on HUD Exchange—and it lists on a weekly basis the upcoming training that both OHC is giving and all of our partners.

And now let me turn the call over to Jerry Mayer, the Director of Outreach and Capacity Building for the Office of Housing Counseling. Jerry?

Jerry

Thank you, Ginger, and welcome to today's presentation. I'd like to start by thanking HUD's Offices of Public and Indian Housing, and Community Planning and Development for bringing us this important information on the Emergency Housing Voucher program. And especially, thank you to all the housing counselors who are joining us here today to learn about this vital program. HUD's network of housing counselors help consumers every day learn about their housing options, including these important emergency housing vouchers.

And now I'd like to introduce Chad Ruppel. Chad is the Director of the Program Support Division in HUD's Office of Public Housing Voucher Programs. On the emergency housing voucher project, Chad oversees matters relating to data and reporting, and the PHA Accept/Decline process. Chad, the mic is yours.

Chad

Alright. Thank you, Jerry. I just wanted to really thank you, especially for reaching out to us. This is such a great opportunity to talk to housing counselors out there. The American Rescue Plan provided a \$5 billion investment for these 70,000 vouchers. And as you'll see in the presentation here, it's really a unique program to help really, I think address the nation's homeless crisis, help address people who are at risk of

homelessness, and people who are fleeing domestic violence and human trafficking.

It's a unique opportunity for HUD to work together both with PIH and CPD collaborating on this program, and at the ground level at local public housing authorities, and Continuum of Cares, working together to help really create a better network and a foundation for which people can be served, and I think these housing counselors are going to be a critical role in this. We're going to need a lot of help I think identifying units and landlords as well as helping identify eligible households and reaching out to people who could benefit from this program.

So thanks again for reaching out to us. We're excited to share the good news of this program with everybody. And with that, I'd like to turn it over to one of our policy experts here, Jerriane Anthony.

Jerriane

Thanks, Chad. Good morning, everyone. Thank you all for joining us today for an introduction to HUD's new Emergency Voucher Program. My name is Jerriane Anthony, and I'm a Housing Program Specialist with the Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division.

Today you'll be hearing from myself and other HUD colleagues as we provide a background on the emergency housing voucher initiative, the goals of the program, and how PHAs and the required community partners will come together to administer the assistance. This includes a discussion of the collaboration between PHAs and Continuums of Care.

We'll discuss the role of equity and how communities may come together to think about equity in the rollout of EHV. We'll touch on how these allocations were made, highlight program requirements—including waivers and alternative requirements—before getting into the nuts and bolts of lending and the funds that will be made available to help communities and the families that will be served in the program. Finally, we'll close with Tips for Success, which we hope will help you as you seek to collaborate with community partners.

As Virginia mentioned at the beginning of the presentation, we have set aside time at the end to answer as many questions as we possibly can. We ask that you please utilize the chat feature to pose any questions you may have. While we may not be able to answer all of them, please be assured that we are documenting all of the questions asked and will work to answer them as quickly as possible. Frequently asked questions are

available on our website and are updated weekly, and that website is [hud.gov/ehv](https://www.hud.gov/ehv). Next slide, please.

As Chad mentioned, the American Rescue Plan of 2021 appropriated \$5 billion for Housing Choice Vouchers targeted to the population we'll speak to today. This funding will allow individuals and families to choose and lease space—decent, affordable housing—cover renewal costs for emergency housing vouchers, and administrative fees and administrative costs for eligible expenses outlined in the Notice, PIH 2021-15, which was issued on May 5, 2021. Next slide, please.

Emergency housing vouchers are limited to individuals and families who are homeless; at risk of homelessness; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; and those defined as recently homeless, which includes families currently in Rapid Re-Housing Programs and permanent supportive housing participants who have been stabilized and no longer require supportive services. These terms are defined in the notice. Next slide, please.

Emergency Housing Vouchers include some unique features designed to afford communities with the flexibilities they need to quickly lease the

target population. EHV's and the partnership it requires are critical in ensuring that communities have access to the resources needed to respond to the nation's housing crisis exacerbated by COVID-19 and to continue the department's efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

A key component of the EHV program is the requirement for PHAs to partner with local Continuums of Care and victim service providers for direct referrals. Continuums of Care are local planning bodies responsible for developing a community's plan to meet the specific needs of people experiencing an episode of homelessness. A listing of CoCs can be found on HUD's website.

Different service providers work to provide direct services to individuals and families fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, and human trafficking. A living memorandum of understanding is required with the CoC and a victim's service provider, and should clearly outline each party's roles and responsibilities.

HUD is requiring an MOU between participating parties to be established within 30 days of the effective date of the annual contributions contract.

We want to be clear about the MOU. The MOU is a living document.

While HUD's expectation is that communities will work to get the partnerships together as quickly as possible given the urgency to assist our families, we understand and even expect that this MOU will evolve to meet the particular needs of the community. Next slide, please.

CoCs and victim service providers are responsible for determining eligibility and referring qualified households to the PHA. EHV's can additionally be used to facilitate emergency transfers in accordance with the PHA's emergency transfer plan to facilitate moves of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

EHV's require PHAs to ensure that housing search assistance is available. Local CoCs as well as agencies such as Housing Counseling Services are great partners for housing search assistance and may be available to support with housing location efforts.

I will now turn the presentation over to Caroline Crouse, Senior SNAP Specialist with HUD's Office of Community and Planning Development.

Caroline

Thanks, Jerriane, and thank you all for joining us. And a special thank you to PIH for allowing us to partner with you on the administration of these vouchers. It's been a great opportunity.

I'm a member of the SNAP office, which is the office that administers homeless assistance grants, including the Continuum of Care Program and the Emergency Solutions Grants Program. In our office we are working to make sure that every community has a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible and is otherwise rare, brief, and non-reoccurring. We see these vouchers as a vital part of this systematic response, and are excited to see the changes that these can make in communities in helping prevent or end homelessness for families.

A CoC should be comprised of representatives of organizations, including nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, and a number of other partners, including those individuals and families who are homeless or formerly homeless to give input into the system. The responsibility of the CoC includes operating a CoC and planning for a systematic response to homelessness. The critical parts of the CoC program is to make sure that it is community-wide and it looks at the full array of resources in the community that can

be used to create a whole system, to improve coordination and integration of mainstream resources about other programs that are targeted specifically to those experiencing homelessness. Next slide. I'm sorry, I got behind on the slides. Next slide. And one more slide, please.

There are several key parts that I wanted to mention with the partnership that we have with PIH in the Emergency Housing Voucher Program. First is that the referrals all must come from the coordinated entry system. The coordinated entry system is a system that's designed to look at all of the resources in housing available in a community to ensure to prioritize and thus expose [ph] those most in need to get the resources and help that they can in a fair and equitable way.

Additionally, I did want to mention that there is a specific provision for victim service providers within the Continuum of Care. As you may know, a number of victim service providers are members of the Continuum of Care, but they may be having certain provisions including having a separate coordinated entry system in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their clients. Next slide, please.

Another thing I wanted to mention in here is one of the core beliefs that we have within the SNAP office and in the administration of the PIH EHV's, so the importance of equity in the emergency housing vouchers. This is a great opportunity of having all of these new housing resources coming into communities and taking an opportunity to ensure that we look at the administration of these vouchers through an eye of equity, making sure that the group that's convened to determine the prioritization of these vouchers includes people experiencing homelessness or who have experienced homelessness, people of color, stakeholders with different backgrounds and diverse clientele, and all at the table to make the decision based on—to ensure that the vouchers are distributed and used equitably and that they are equitably successful, so looking at who's getting the vouchers and who has successful experiences within the voucher program. Next slide, please.

To do this, we are encouraging people to have potentially a system where they start with data, looking at who is being assisted in the communities, who most needs assistance in the communities, and using that data to build a strategy to determine what the best way to implement the program will be. That implementation, once the program is starting to be implemented, start looking at evaluating and refining the implementation, we're

encouraging communities to look again who is experiencing homelessness, who has the largest need, as well as looking at is the program equitably serving those who most need the assistance, and who is having the best success rates? Once those data start coming in, the community should continue to evaluate and refine the program to ensure those equity outcomes.

At this point, I'm going to turn the presentation back over to Emily Warren from the Office of Public and Indian Housing.

Emily

Thanks, Caroline. I'm Emily Warren, also a Voucher Program Specialist at NPH [ph], and I'm here to discuss some of the other unique features of EHV.

First, the fee structure. PHAs that accept an allocation of EHV's will qualify for additional fees to assist in the facilitation and leasing of vouchers. PHAs will receive \$400 for each EHV awarded. And once the voucher is initially leased, participating PHAs will earn \$100 for each family housed. This requires that all data be reported in the public housing information center next generation system, known as PIC-NG,

within 14 days of the later of the effective date of the family's voucher or when the system becomes available for reporting.

To encourage quick leasing for each EHV family placed under a half contract within four months of the effective date of the ACC funding, PHAs will be awarded \$500. For families placed within six months after the effective date of the ACC funding, PHAs will receive \$250. PHAs will receive the full column admin fee amount. And lastly, PHAs will receive \$3,500 for each allocated EHV that can be utilized for service fees, which we'll cover in the next slide. So next slide, please.

In addition to ongoing admin fees, PHAs that accept an allocation of EHV's will receive fees to assist in the leasing of vouchers. These are one-time service fees and not ongoing service dollars that are intended to help support successful lease-up.

Eligible activities for service fees include housing search assistance; security, utility, and move-in deposits; application and holding fees; landlord recruitment and incentives; moving expenses; renters insurance where necessary; tenant readiness services such as credit repair; and household items such as bedding and tableware. Next slide.

The notice also provides PHAs with broad waiver authority to administer EHV's. PHAs may select from a menu of waivers to aid eligible households to eliminate barriers to housing and ensure expedited leasing. CARES Act waiver is identified in Notice PIH 2021-15, which was issued on May 5th, is available for the administration of EHV's.

For example, HCV-1 allows the PHA an administrative plan to be revised on a temporary basis without board approval through September 30, 2021, and use of such waiver may assist the community in quickly setting up their EHP program. I'll highlight other waiver or alternative requirements available to PHAs.

As an alternative requirement, and as previously mentioned, PHAs will receive direct referrals for EHV's from coordinated entry and victim service providers. These referrals are not added to the PHA's regular HCV waiting list. PHAs and their partners can decide whether or not they wish to establish separate local preferences for EHV's that are distinct from the regular HCV program in order to better prioritize and serve EHV families. The notice outlines waivers and alternative requirements around discretionary and mandatory prohibition of admissions, which concerns the reasons under which a PHA may prohibit admission to EHV.

And finally, HUD is providing flexibility through waiver and alternative requirements around income verification and the provision of social security and citizenship verification for the purpose of reducing barriers to accessing this program for individuals and families that may have challenges initially providing this information. Next slide.

Additionally, income targeting requirements are waived and do not apply for eligible EHV household families to allow PHAs to serve individuals and families in all of the eligibility categories under the American Rescue Plan Act. PHAs may accept income calculations and verifications from third-party providers or other subsidized housing programs in lieu of conducting an initial examination of income as long as the income was, one, calculated in accordance with the rules and a family certifies that there has been no change in income or family composition in the last six months; and two, the family certifies that there has been no change in income or family composition in the interim.

To further expedite leasing, PHAs may pre-inspect available units that EHV families may be interested in leasing. The initial search term for EHV must be at least 120 days with extensions, suspensions, and progress reports will remain under the policies in the PHA's administrative plan,

but will apply after the minimum 120-day initial search term. The initial lease term for an EHV family may be less than 12 months, even if this is not typical in the local rental market.

While the normal HCV portability procedures apply, PHAs may not restrict an EHV family from exercising portability because they are non-resident applicants. Portability billing and absorption requirements have also been revised.

An alternative requirement for payment standards has been included to allow PHAs to establish separate higher payment standards for EHV's to increase the potential pool of units available to each EHV family. And as you can see, these waivers and alternative requirements are designed to address a number of barriers that families may experience in accessing and utilizing EHV assistance. Next slide.

On May 10th, HUD announced 70,000 EHV allocations to 696 PHAs. Allocations for each PHA are available on the EHV website at hud.gov/ehv. The formula used was designed to direct emergency vouchers to the PHAs operating in areas where the EHV's eligible populations have the greatest need while also taking into account PHA

capacity and the requirement to ensure geographic diversity, including rural areas.

HUD is still going through responses to accept or decline the vouchers, but currently over 600 PHAs have accepted their award. HUD will share a full listing of PHAs who received their awards in the future. Next slide.

So I'll just pause here with some tips for success as you consider how to provide the most effective services to EHV families. First, think beyond traditional housing counseling services, and utilize the many new pandemic-related resources available to support low-income families, many of which may help complement the services that can be provided through the EHV service fee. Many of you are likely aware of support such as the new broadband benefit, emergency rental assistance programs to pay off rent arrears, and other programs in your area that can help set up EHV families for success.

Second, meet with your community CoC and victim service providers to determine how housing counseling services may assist in housing counseling and location services. You likely have different areas of

expertise that together can help support successful leasing among EHV families.

And third, draw upon your experiences and those of your partnering PHA with programs such as special purpose vouchers like the HUD-VASH or Mainstream Housing Mobility Services, and owner benefits programs to determine what counseling services will be the most effective for your rental market and the populations that your community is prioritizing for EHV. Next slide.

HUD is rapidly launching technical assistance to support communities through the implementation of EHV. We have an ongoing series of webinars designed to aid participating communities, which will be offered via HUD Exchange. HUD will be providing additional support via group learning. On-call and direct TA will be available to participating communities. You can find more information as well at hud.gov/ehv.
Next slide.

The resources currently displayed can be found on the HUD Exchange under COVID-19 resources. And these may be helpful as you begin planning for the implementation of emergency housing vouchers. We

hope this webinar was informative and you are as excited as we are about HUD's new EHV and the opportunity this resource holds for your community. Next slide.

Thanks. So I'll stop there to pause for a question.

Virginia

Okay. Ben, are you able to go through the question box and pull up some questions?

Ben

Excuse me. Sorry, I was on mute. Yes, let's take a look at what is in the question box. Actually it's looking like all of the questions have been answered by the other organizers, but some are popping in.

The first question, I apologize I'm not aware of the context, "Where can we find these pages?" Do you know perhaps what they are referring to?

Chad

Hello, this is Chad. I'm sorry. I don't see the question in my version of the chat box. Is it—?

Ben

Oh, it would be under the questions box, not the chat box. While we're figuring out that one, I will read another question. "Is there a standard

referral form or process for housing counselors to use to follow when recommending EHV?”

Caroline

[Overlapping voices]. This is Caroline. I could take—yes, I can take a stab at that. So housing counselors, so all of the referrals for EHV's are coming through the coordinated entry system. The first step would be for housing counselors, if you are working with someone who is experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or perhaps fleeing domestic violence, the best referral for that counseling would be to the coordinated entry system in the community so that the person can be assessed and referred over, if appropriate.

In terms of domestic violence, I think it really makes sense for housing counselors to be involved in the system to understand if those referrals are going through the coordinated entry system or if there is a separate coordinated entry system from victim service providers, or another method with which those referrals will be getting sent over.

I will say, I didn't mention the fourth category, which is recently homeless. Those also go through the CoC. I would assume that most of the work with the housing counseling would actually be through an

organization that's connected to the CoC, but that's also one that you could send to the CoC.

Ben Thank you for that. I have a clarification from a question regarding the pages. She was referring to the pages that are being mentioned for waivers and such.

Jerrienne The page numbers referenced throughout the PowerPoint are referring to the notice. So it's Notice PIH 2021-15. I'll try to find a link for it and include it in the chat as well.

Ben Okay, great. Thank you. I apologize. I'm just taking a moment to make sure I am collecting the questions correctly. There are a couple of two-parters.

Chad If you want, I can take the one from Patsy Davis.

Ben Sure.

Chad "If we haven't received a notice of award, will we be able to apply?" So unfortunately the formula and the distribution of the award notifications

has already occurred. So if you're curious to see who was notified, the list is available on our website, www.hud.gov/ehv. If you did not get an award, we apologize, but the formula kind of distributed it we thought fairly equitably across the country.

Ben Great. Thank you. I'm seeing a few questions about the PowerPoint referring to documents. Again, that is the document that will be posted in chat. A question came in from Karen, "Is the voucher temporary or long-term?"

Chad Jerrienne, do you want to take that one? I can. So right now because of the nature of the funding, the voucher does expire in the year 2030, but I think for our purposes right now we would consider this a long-term voucher. We'll expect that there's a reasonable chance that Congress may renew it or HUD would work with any PHAs and administrative vouchers to make sure that no one is left without assistance when the program does expire in the year 2030.

Ben Great. Thank you. Another question came in that asked if the 600+ organizations that are handling the vouchers are listed anywhere on the HUD website or if the list is available anywhere.

Emily I can take that question.

Ben Okay, go.

Emily Sorry, Ben. So right now on www.hud.gov/ehv what we have available are the 696 PHAs that were awarded in allocation on May 10th per the American Rescue Plan Act Statute required notification to be provided to PHAs by May 10th. Now what we've closed out yesterday was PHAs had 14 days to accept or decline their voucher allocation. So what we will publish later is the final count of everyone who has accepted the EHV awards.

Chad And I can add that we are actually going through that data right now and the acceptance rate was extremely high, like 97%. So chances are if you see a PHA on there they did accept, but there's a few that declined.

Ben Okay, great. Thank you. I believe we've answered this question but just to make sure. "If we haven't received a notice award will we be able to apply?"

Chad No. It is formula-driven and so we're not going to be issuing additional award letters to new agencies at this time.

Ben Okay. Thank you. Another question is, "By what standards are classifying homeless are we using in the McKinney-Vento Act?" That question is hopefully clear to you because it is not to me.

Caroline I can take that. This is Caroline. We're using HUD's definition of homelessness. So remember there are four categories; homelessness at-risk homelessness, fleeing domestic violence and recently homeless. So in the homeless category we're using HUD's definition of homeless. I'll put the link to that in the response to this question.

The at-risk of homelessness just to—usually when people are asking about the McKinney-Vento Act definition they're asking about the definition that are used by the Department of Education, so that does qualify as at-risk of homelessness. So kind of yes, is the answer to your question.

So just for more clarification, I will put the links to a couple documents that we have on explaining who qualifies as homeless and who qualifies as at-risk of homelessness just so you'll be able to kind of see what those are.

Ben Great. Thank you very much. We actually only have one more, or excuse me, two more questions in the queue, and I will read these two. But if the audience has any more, now is a great time to get them entered in so we can answer those before the webinar closes.

First of all the comment is, “The webinar was very helpful.” So again our thanks to our presenters, our fellow HUD colleagues that are giving all this wonderful information out.

The question is, “I need to identify the coordinated entry system for my homeless clients. I’m certain that I’ve referred my clients to participants of the Continuum of Care but my clients apparently have not been directed to their coordinated entry system person or entity.”

Caroline Great question. So it depends a little bit in the community of where to go. So a number of communities have like a 211 system or a 311 system that will connect people that are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness to their coordinated entry system. What I would suggest is actually looking for the housing counselors to reach out to the CoC contact for your community, with the link I’m trying to look up right now and I’ll put it in. But what it does is every CoC has a primary contact that or that

is updated on the HUD website and in order to figure out within your community because it's not standardized, what the best way to access the coordinated entry system is to work with them on doing that. So I will send out that link in just a moment.

Ben Great. Thank you very much. Another question that is in, I believe we've answered but just for refresh, "When do the vouchers expire?"

Chad So by nature of the way of the program was funded through a reconciliation act, the program itself is scheduled to expire in the year 2030 but as I mentioned, I think we're expecting that no tenant will be left without assistance. So we don't have a set voucher expiration date, but the program does expire right now in 2030.

Ben Great. Thank you. Okay. The last question that we currently have in the queue is, "How much time after accepting the funding does the PHA, CoC and community have to revise this assessment process? How are we able to learn more about these conversations and the identified program awarded area?"

Dave

This is Dave Vargas. I'll take that one. We've been having discussions with our policy development research branch in terms of metrics and program performance. There will be more information to come on that once we do it and is completely signed. We actually had a meeting a couple days ago on that, so once we get better information we will be collecting data from our pick [ph] systems and then the PNR [ph] will be analyzing that data in terms of our [indiscernible] program.

Ben

Great. Thank you very much. At this time there's no other questions in the queue. But I would like to invite all the participants, if we didn't answer your question fully or if by some chance I did miss your question, please type it in again and we will definitely take that. Plus, if there are of course any other questions, you are more than welcome to ask at this time.

Again, if you have a question later on that you think of, you can always send it to housing.counseling@hud.gov and we will get a response from the experts. And that is always a great resource for our housing counselors and anyone else to use that has a question about our program or any of this.

A further question regarding certificates. If you're referring to a certificate of training you will get an email from the GoToWebinar thanking you for your attendance, and that will include a certificate that you can print out and save for your records.

A question about the presentation itself. It is available in the handout section of the webinar interface. You just click on that link. It will automatically download and usually open in a new browser window. And you can save that for your records as well.

Virginia

And it will also be posted along with the written transcript and an audio replay number in the webinar archives section on HUD Exchange. As I said earlier, that will take about a week for that to show up. So you have several different ways to get the presentation.

Dave

Also, one more plug in. Jerry, I'd like to put a plug in for the EHV website. In there, there's tons of information in terms of prior webinars we've done of the reporting of those webinars with Q&As. We have our frequently asked questions. We have the notice there. We have the PHA [indiscernible] allocations. We have the CoC mapping between the PHAs and the CoCs. So there's a lot of really good information and that website

gets updated daily so I want to encourage you to go the website:

www.hud.gov/ehv.

Ben Great. Thank you.

Virginia Thank you.

Ben Do we want to answer just a couple more questions, Ginger?

Virginia Yes, we have a couple more minutes.

Ben Okay, great. This one was actually responded to via text, but I wanted to share it with everybody. “Regarding voucher turnover, is there an end date. What happens after the end date of 9/30/23?”

The response that was provided by an expert—somebody that’s not me—is, “Vouchers cannot be reissued to a new family after 9/30/23, but families remaining in the program at that date may continue to do so.”

Okay. The final question that we have in the queue is, “When will the vouchers be available?”

Dave

This is Dave Vargas. Let me kind of take a stab at that question. So right now we're in the process of finalizing the allocations to all the PHAs that accepted. We are rerunning the formula to reallocate approximately 1,500 vouchers nationwide. Then we are going to be doing amended, consolidated annual contribution contracts with the housing agencies probably over the next week to 10 days. The effective date of action for the PHAs in terms of funding for housing assistance payments is July 1, 2021, so it's approximately about five weeks from now, five/six weeks.

However, PHAs can start issuing vouchers as soon as they're ready to go. So the effective date of action, because it takes time from the time that a PHA gets a referral to the time that a voucher is issued, to the time that a family looks for a unit, finds a unit, we then turn it into a lease, we then turn it into a half contract. That's a process. The housing agencies are going to get administrative fees and startup administrative fees probably within the next week to 10 days, and we encourage PHAs to start that process as soon as possible. But the technical answer to your question is the HAV [ph] effective date of action is July 1, 2021 is when the HAV funding will flow to the PHAs.

Ben Great. Thank you very much, David. She did have one follow-up question. "Is there an estimate on the total number of vouchers?" I know the funding and NPH [ph] have been determined, but is the actual number of vouchers available?

Dave The total number of vouchers that are going to be allocated is going to be 70,000. That has not changed. Seventy thousand vouchers nationwide.

Ben Thank you for that. That is actually all the questions that we have in the queue, so I'd like to turn it back over to Ginger.

Virginia Okay. Thank you, everybody. Those are great questions. As we've mentioned a couple of times, we are going to provide the PowerPoint and audio replay number and a written transcript on our archives section and our HUD Exchange page. We will also make sure that the notice that they refer to is posted along with that.

Something else though that is really valuable about our archives is that we have archived every webinar that OHC has done or sponsored over the last several years and you're able to search those archives by either the date or by topic. When you find one that you want to look at, just click on it.

Open it up. But you'll also be able to get credit in HUD Exchange's curriculum database just by clicking on the "Get Credit" button.

Now, realize this is different from the certificate that Ben and I have mentioned, which will come from GoToWebinar, but it's a good way to keep up with everything that's going on. We'll make sure that the other emergency voucher webinars are mentioned there and also on our HUD Exchange page in general.

We're just again going to the all-time favorite question box. If you would just make a couple notes in it as to whether the webinar was useful to you, to your clients. Are you going to share this information with co-workers? And just any other comments. We like to get these so we can continue to always improve our webinars.

Here are just some Office of Counseling resources. The HUD Exchange page, which is hudexchange.info/counseling. For those of you who are housing counselors, don't forget that you need to complete your certification process by August 1, 2021, and the site for all that is hudhousingcounselors.com.

Ben and I both mentioned, email us with questions, comments, concerns at housing.counseling@hud.gov. Then we do put out a quarterly newsletter, *The Bridge*. So it's a good source of information.

So thank you all for attending. We're glad that we had the opportunity to present this really breaking news and important projects so that you all can start to help your clients with that.

At this point I believe we are done for the day. Again, have a good day and thank you for attending.

Moderator

Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, that does conclude our conference for today. Thank you for your participation. You may now disconnect.