

# Special Purpose Vouchers Fact Sheet

## Fact Sheet Overview

This fact sheet details [Special Purpose Vouchers](#) (SPV), a type of Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, administered by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs). When utilized strategically and collaboratively with Continuums of Care (CoCs) and other partners, these programs provide unique opportunities to target rental assistance resources to specific populations to advance a community's plan to end homelessness, support a community's equity outcomes, and create ways to meaningfully engage with people with lived experience of homelessness and involvement with various systems.

## Voucher Overview

### [Mainstream/ Non-Elderly Disabled \(NED\) Vouchers](#)

Mainstream and Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) vouchers are Housing Choice Vouchers with special eligibility criteria to serve non-elderly persons with disabilities (at least 18 years and less than 62 years) or households with a member with disabilities. There are small differences between the Mainstream and NED programs, and within the NED program there are two types of vouchers – Category 1: non-elderly persons and families with disabilities and Category 2: persons leaving institutional care for community-based housing and services. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awards these vouchers through competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity processes (NOFO); additional awards based on performance (including utilization) have also been made to Mainstream applicants funded through NOFO.

### [Family Unification Program \(FUP\)/ Foster Youth to Independence \(FYI\) Vouchers](#)

The Family Unification Program (FUP) and Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative makes HCVs available to PHAs in partnership with Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs). FUP vouchers serve to assist child welfare involved families who lack adequate housing to prevent the out-of-home placement of their child or children, or to facilitate family reunification. Both FUP and FYI vouchers assist youth between the ages of 18-24 who have exited foster care or will exit foster care within 90 days and are experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness. FUP vouchers are allocated to PHAs through a competitive NOFO process. FYI vouchers awards have included both competitive NOFO as well as non-competitive awards based on demonstrated need and PHA administrative performance (including utilization of FUP and FYI).

### [HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing \(HUD-VASH\)](#)

The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program combines HCVs for homeless Veteran households with case management and clinical services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC)- or a VA contractor or VA designated service provider (DSP). HUD and the VA collaboratively award HUD-VASH vouchers to VAMC and PHA partnerships based on geographic need and PHA administrative performance. In recent years, this allocation has been done through a registration of interest notice, requiring PHAs to self-identify interest in additional vouchers.

HUD-VASH eligible households consist of eligible homeless veterans and their families. Eligibility determination and veteran selection and intake is done by the VAMC (or DSP). After intake, HUD-VASH eligible families are referred to the partnering PHA for the issuance of a voucher or selection for a PBV unit.

### [Emergency Housing Voucher \(EHV\)](#)

Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program provides HCVs to PHAs to assist 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, or were recently homeless or have a high risk of housing instability. HUD allocated these vouchers to communities with the greatest need for EHVs and where local PHAs demonstrated the capacity to administer the vouchers. Collaboration and referrals from the CoC and Victim Service Providers (VSPs) are a key element of the EHV program implementation along with many waivers to reduce housing barriers. Unlike the other SPVs discussed in this fact sheet, which are funded through annual appropriations and are permanent assistance, EHVs are one-time funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and set to expire in Sept 2030 – EHV vouchers cannot be re-issued after September 30, 2023.

[Stability Vouchers \(SVs\)](#)

The Stability Voucher Program, like the Emergency Housing Voucher Program (EHV), makes HCVs available to PHAs in partnership with local CoC and/or VSPs to assist households experiencing or at risk of homelessness, those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meets criteria that will be outlined in the notice. HUD will allocate Stability Vouchers to communities based on a formula using CoC unsheltered homeless data and select PHAs will receive an invitation via email to apply for a specific number of vouchers.

### Special Purpose Vouchers Comparison Chart

The chart below outlines major similarities and differences between the different Special Purpose Voucher programs. This chart does not include all requirements or regulations for each of the different programs; therefore, it is important to read through the published Notices and Rules linked to throughout this document for each program.

	<b>Mainstream/NED</b>	<b>FYI/FUP</b>	<b>HUD-VASH</b>	<b>EHV</b>	<b>Stability</b>
<b>Referral/ Application Process Highlights</b>	Households are either referred to or apply directly to the PHA and are pulled from the PHA’s regular waiting list.	The Public Child Welfare Agency (PCWA) certifies families or youth as meeting eligibility criteria related to child welfare involvement and housing status and refers them to the PHA. Once the PCWA makes the referral, the PHA places the FUP applicant on its HCV waiting list and determines HCV eligibility.	Veterans must be referred to participating PHAs by its partnering Veteran Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) or VA Designated Service Provider (DSP) HUD-VASH referrals are not added to the PHA’s regular HCV waiting list.	PHAs must establish MOUs with CoCs, VSPs and other partnering organizations for direct referrals from the Coordinated Entry system. Direct referrals are not added to the PHA’s regular HCV waiting list. Limited exceptions apply to accepting referrals outside of the CE process. (See Notice for details.) A separate waiting list for EHVs must be maintained.	PHAs must establish MOUs with CoCs for direct referrals from the Coordinated Entry system. Direct referrals are not added to the PHA’s regular HCV waiting list. Limited exceptions apply to accepting referrals outside of the CE process. (See Notice for details.) A separate waiting list for SVs must be maintained.

	<b>Mainstream/NED</b>	<b>FYI/FUP</b>	<b>HUD-VASH</b>	<b>EHV</b>	<b>Stability</b>
<b>All SPVs can be tenant-based. Can the SPV be Project-Based?</b>	Yes (No additional HUD HQ approval needed)	FUP: Yes (No additional HUD HQ approval needed) FYI: FYI Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPVs) awarded through PIH 2019-20 cannot be PBV because they sunset upon turnover, however all other FYI vouchers can be PBV.	Yes (No additional HUD HQ approval needed)	No	Yes (No additional HUD HQ approval needed)
<b>Cross-System Coordination Highlights</b>	<p>Mainstream: Encouraged coordination with CoC, and other entities that can coordinate referrals for eligible households and voluntary services</p> <p>NED (Category II): Required PHA partnership with state Medicaid or health agency or state Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration agency for the application</p>	<p>FUP and FYI: Referrals must come from the PCWA. The PHA must have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU or letter of intent with the PCWA for program administration, eligibility certification, referrals and services provided by the PCWA and/or community-based providers.</p> <p>FUP: The CoC must also be a party to the MOU..</p> <p>FYI: Third-party participation with CoCs, state and local parties, philanthropic and faith-based partners is encouraged, but not required. For the Non-Competitive process, the partnership agreement may take the form of an MOU or letters of intent between the parties.</p>	<p>Formal relationship between VAMC and PHA is established through the HUD-VASH Operating Requirements and agreed to upon acceptance of voucher awards</p> <p>Coordination with CoC and Coordinated Entry is highly encouraged</p>	Formal MOU with CoC or other direct referral partner. EHV referrals must come through the local CoC's Coordinated Entry System (CES), with limited exceptions	<p>Required partnerships with the CoC and/or VSP and other organizations in the PHA's geographic area for direct referrals and services</p> <p>PHA recommended to partner with health and housing agencies and to coordinate with communities that receive funding through the <a href="#">CoC SNOFO</a></p>
<b>Supportive Services</b>	PHAs are encouraged to establish formal and	FUP and FYI: PCWA must provide access to self-	Case Management provided by the VAMC,	PHA must ensure housing search assistance is made	PHAs must enter an MOU with the CoC to establish a

	<b>Mainstream/NED</b>	<b>FYI/FUP</b>	<b>HUD-VASH</b>	<b>EHV</b>	<b>Stability</b>
	<p>informal partnerships with a variety of organizations that assist persons with disabilities, and to describe those partnerships in the PHA's NOFA responses. For NED Category 2 households, Health and Human Services provided health and social supports through the "Money Follows the Person" program.</p>	<p>sufficiency services (eg. life skills info/counseling, educational and job counseling, etc.) for participating FUP and FYI youth, and may provide services for households. The FUP-Family Supportive Services (FSS) demo pairs FUP with FSS services provided by PHA.  FYI: Supportive Services must be made available to eligible youth receiving rental assistance for a period of 36 months.  <i>*Voucher holders are not required to participate in these additional services as a requirement for housing assistance.</i></p>	<p>or other designated service provider is a requirement for all participants in HUD-VASH.   Additionally, case managers may assist with housing search, landlord outreach, tenancy supports, education/career advancement, behavioral health, medical services.   Supportive services are eligible costs in HUD VASH.</p>	<p>available to EHV households during their initial housing search.  This assistance may be provided directly by the PHA or through the CoC, VSP, or another partner   Eligible EHV costs include housing search, landlord outreach/ incentives and security deposits.  CoCs are encouraged to offer or make connections to additional supportive services that are not considered eligible costs for households that are referred to the PHA.</p>	<p>partnership with the CoC to pair SVs with CoC-funded supportive services. In addition, PHAs and CoCs are encouraged to outline partnerships with other agencies (e.g., health and behavioral health providers and other supportive services providers) that can be leveraged to offer wrap-around services.</p>
<p><b>Link to SPV Resources and Key Notices for Detailed Voucher Information</b></p>	<p>Resource pages:  <a href="#">Mainstream Vouchers</a>  <a href="#">Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers</a>  Mainstream: <a href="#">Notice PIH 2022-07</a>  NED: <a href="#">Notice PIH 2013-19</a></p>	<p>Resource Pages:  <a href="#">Foster Youth to Independence</a>  <a href="#">Family Unification Vouchers</a>  FUP: <a href="#">(Preview 2022 FUP Family/Youth NOFO)</a>  FYI competitive: <a href="#">FR-6600-N-41 FYI NOFO</a>  FYI non-competitive: <a href="#">Notice 2023-04</a>  FYI TPV: <a href="#">Notice PIH-2019-20</a></p>	<p>Resource Pages:  Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)  <a href="#">HUD-VASH Operating Requirements</a>  <a href="#">HUD-VASH HCV Program Guidebook</a>  <a href="#">HUD-VASH Reference Guide 2012-10</a></p>	<p>Resource Page:  <a href="#">Emergency Housing Vouchers</a>  <a href="#">Notice PIH 2021-15</a></p>	<p>Resource Page:  <a href="#">Stability Voucher Program</a>  <a href="#">Notice PIH 2022-24 (HA)</a></p>

## Equity and Collaboration to Achieve Community-wide Goals to End Homelessness:

While there are differences between the SPV programs, some strategies that can be effectively used across all programs. There are several approaches communities can utilize to achieve equitable SPV program administration and implementation including, but not limited to:

- Holding conversations explicitly on centering equity and engagement with people with lived experience of homelessness and the relevant systems covered by SPV programs,
- Mining, analyzing, and sharing equity analysis data in transparent, solutions-driven, and collaborative ways,
- Integrating program flexibility to adapt to and meet system, program, and household needs,
- Seeking out opportunities to collaborate with diverse groups including people with lived experience of homelessness, and
- Collecting non-traditional demographic data such as information on specific subgroups and intersectional identities

Partnerships maximize community resources to better meet the needs of households experiencing homelessness. PHAs can work collaboratively with community partners to increase access to their programs; target rental assistance to those who are likely to need it the most, but the least likely to obtain a voucher; expand and enhance supportive services; and affirmatively further fair housing. By working collaboratively with partners, communities can maximize the use of their data to identify and create local preferences (if applicable to the SPV program) to meet local needs, including eliminating racial disparities.

Collaborative communities can experience high voucher utilization rates, low returns to homelessness, and more efficient systems. There are several collaborative activities communities can engage in including, but not limited to:

- Coordinated Entry referrals in efforts to target limited resources,
- Support for households in completing the program application process,
- Individualized housing search assistance,
- Establishing a culturally relevant support network,
- Supportive services to sustain housing retention, and
- Leveraging and braiding CoC or other funds (such as ESG, HOME, and CDBG) to fill gaps in PHA eligible expenses.

## Additional Resources

### CoC/PHA Collaboration

- [CoC and PHA Collaboration: Strategies for CoCs to Start the Partnership Conversation](#)
- [Using EHV Data Between PHAs and CoCs](#)
- [VA Participation in Coordinated Entry Guidance \(hudexchange.info\)](#)
- [PHA and CoC Collaboration Case Studies](#)

### Advancing Racial Equity and Inclusivity of People with Lived Experience of Homelessness

- [Racial Equity - HUD Exchange](#)
- [Emergency Housing Vouchers: Strategy for Targeting and Related Resources](#)
- [EHV Office Hours, 3/8/22 - Advancing Equity in EHV](#)
- **Public Housing Resident Toolkit: Public Housing Resident Organizing and Participation Guides** Public Housing Resident Toolkit: Public Housing Resident Organizing and Participation Guides
- [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)

### Reducing barriers for returning citizens

- [Notice PIH 2015-19: Guidance for Public Housing Agencies \(PHAs\) and Owners of Federally Assisted Housing on Excluding the Use of Arrest Records in Housing Decisions](#)
- HUD Secretary Reentry Housing Letter 6/23/2021
- [Office of General Counsel Guidance on Application of Fair Housing Act Standards to the Use of Criminal Records by Providers of Housing and Real Estate-Related Transactions](#)
- [Mainstream Vouchers – Serving Persons at Serious Risk of Entering or Transitioning Out of Institutional Settings](#)

### Veteran-Specific Resources

- [Beyond HUD-VASH: Ending Veteran Homelessness Webinar - HUD Exchange](#)
- [Recently expanded to serve Tribal HUD VASH Program.](#)

### Moving On (helping permanent supportive housing tenants who no longer want and need intensive services to move to affordable housing or rental assistance)

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/moving-on/>

### Other Voucher-Specific or General Resources

- [PHA Strategies to Assist People Experiencing Homelessness Guidebook - HUD Exchange](#)
- [Notice PIH 2013-15 \(HA\): Guidance on housing individuals and families experiencing homelessness through the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs](#)
- [ACYF-CB-IM-17-03 \(hhs.gov\)](#)
- [Housing Services - Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)