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Fresno Housing Authority to Open a Preliminary Waitlist for Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)

Fresno, CA –For the first time since 2008, the Fresno Housing Authority has announced that they will be accepting registrations for a new Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) **preliminary** waitlist. Registration is only available online and will open on **Tuesday, July 23rd at 10:00am.**

The preliminary waitlist will remain open at all times. As vouchers become available, a lottery system will be used to pull names from this preliminary waitlist and an official waitlist will be established. This official waitlist will utilize income eligibility established by HUD, as well as other official criteria established as part of the Housing Choice Voucher Program, and certain preferences established by the Fresno Housing Authority. The agency has changed the process to the lottery system to ensure that everyone has an equal chance of placement on the official waitlist.

“This new process is as fair as possible because it is a random selection of individuals from our preliminary waitlist,” said Preston Prince, Executive Director and CEO of the Fresno Housing Authority. “Only one in four eligible households in our community can be issued a Housing Choice Voucher due to the limited supply, and this process ensures that all eligible individuals on the preliminary waitlist have the same chance of being selected for the official waitlist.”

Income eligibility is generally in the range of 30%-50% of area median income. In Fresno County, this is currently established by HUD as \$17,200 - \$28,650 for a family of four.

The Fresno Housing Authority will use an on-line process and registration will only be accepted through this online process. The on-line registration can be accessed via the Fresno Housing Authority website at .

“We want the process to be as easy as possible for individuals and families so we are not requiring people to come to our offices. In fact, we will not be accepting registration at our offices. Instead, people can register at home, at the nearest library, or wherever they have access to a computer,” said Mr. Prince. “People with disabilities that prevent them from applying online will be able to submit paper applications.”

There is no charge to register for this preliminary waitlist, or any other official Housing Choice Voucher Program waitlist.

The new process also aims to make applying more efficient for the housing authority, which has seen dramatic cuts to funding that enables the administration of the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program (formerly Section 8) is a federally-funded program that provides rental assistance to more than 12,000 eligible low-income individuals and families in Fresno County – enabling them to secure affordable, quality housing in diverse neighborhoods throughout Fresno County. Eligible households who receive a voucher are responsible for finding an apartment or house in the private rental market. Households pay rent and utilities not covered by the voucher, which is typically 30-40% of the household’s monthly income. Eligibility is based on household size and annual gross income. Applicants must meet the income limits established by HUD. Participation is limited to U.S. citizens and non-citizens with eligible immigration status.

The application and all eligibility requirements, including income levels and preferences, can also be found on the Fresno Housing website.

The Fresno Housing Authority wants the public to know that there are scams out there and the official preliminary registration process can only be accessed from Fresno Housing Authority website. There is no fee to apply.