

This is to inform social services districts about a new Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) initiative. Under HUD's Welfare-to-Work Rental Voucher program, vouchers will be available through some Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to help eligible families transition from welfare to work.

The Welfare-to-Work rental vouchers provide a subsidy to families which will support local welfare-to-work activities. Because the rental subsidy follows the family, the Welfare-to-Work vouchers will enable families to move to housing that is closer to employment and training opportunities or services sites such as day care facilities.

Vouchers may be available to families who are eligible to receive, currently receive, or have received TANF within the preceding two years if:

- the PHA determines that tenant-based housing assistance is critical to the family's obtaining or retaining employment, and
- the family is not already receiving tenant-based assistance.

Welfare-to-Work rental vouchers will not be available statewide. The Secretary of HUD, after consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor, will select PHAs on a competitive basis. Applicant PHA's must:

- Describe the proposed program.
- Develop the program in cooperation with TANF and Welfare-to-Work agencies.
- Demonstrate that tenant-based housing assistance is critical to success of families to obtain or retain employment.
- Specify the criteria to be used in selecting families.
- Describe the strategy for tenant counseling, housing search assistance and landlord outreach.
- Request necessary waivers of HUD requirements.
- Include certifications from TANF and Welfare-to-Work agencies that they support the program and will cooperate with it to assure that assistance is coordinated.
- Include other information that the Secretary of HUD may require.

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and the Department of Labor fully support this HUD initiative. (Please also refer to DOL SDA Technical Advisory #13-99.) Local PHAs that are awarded welfare-to-work vouchers will have to coordinate with other welfare reform and Welfare-to-Work initiatives in their community as they develop client, employer, and landlord outreach. We encourage your initial and ongoing cooperation with your local PHAs who have welfare-to-work vouchers and who need your assistance as they develop their program and identify families who may be eligible for participation in the program.

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Please refer to the Public Assistance Source Book (PASB) Section XXIV-E-all and to the Food Stamp Source Book (FSSB) Section XI-C-5.2 for the treatment of Section 8 subsidies paid on behalf of Temporary Assistance and/or Food Stamp recipients.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Stevens
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Temporary Assistance