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Chicago Housing Authority Demonstration Program and Special Initiatives Overview

Homeless Families utilization of sponsor based vouchers (Approved December 2015; updated Oct 2016)

Overview

The Department of Family & Supportive Services (DFSS) will provide social service funding for up to 50 homeless families not currently on CHA's waitlist who utilize a voucher. These families experience a number of challenges on their path to independent living, including securing access to safe, decent and affordable housing, and are typically frequent users of the shelter system.

DFSS will utilize up to 50 Housing Choice Vouchers to house families who are not part of CHA's waitlist and who are currently being served by Homeless Services providers. Through this demonstration program, DFSS selected delegated agencies whereby DFSS will approve appropriate entities to participate and CHA will determine voucher eligibility and voucher issuance.

Purpose Why was this program created?

To provide access to housing for homeless families who need access to or must maintain access to safe, decent and affordable housing.

Eligibility Who can participate?

Social services agencies will respond to an RFP or application published through DFSS. Social service agencies approved to participate will serve homeless families in the HMIS system or through initiatives identified through City priorities. Households referred to CHA must meet established eligibility criteria as set forth in HCV Administrative Plan.

Selection How are potential participants selected?

DFSS will work with each approved applicant agency to determine selection of participants. DFSS will provide CHA with a referral to the demonstration program.

Housing Where and how will CHA house participants?

Participants will be housed in the private market using a Housing Choice Voucher. This demonstration program is not for Public Housing.

Responsibilities What do participants have to do?

Participants will engage in supportive services with their Sponsor Agency and must comply with their lease and with all HCV requirements as outlined in the CHA's Administrative Plan. DFSS will be the contract manager for services and CHA will take the lead on housing related requirements.

Timeline When will the program take place?

Program implementation will begin after approval from CHA Board in early 2016.

Updated October 2016

- Specified that the program is up to 50 Housing Choice Vouchers due to elimination of Sponsored Based Program
- Clarified that service providers were selected from a competitive solicitation through the Department of Family & Support Services (DFSS).
- Clarified eligibility is determined through DFSS but ultimately by CHA.
- Clarified that there will be a referral to CHA for participation from DFSS.