



ALBUQUERQUE HOUSING AUTHORITY
Empowering people in our community through affordable housing and self-sufficiency opportunities

For Immediate Release

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**Albuquerque Housing Authority to open Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher
Online Admissions Lottery from March 15, 2018 to April 15, 2018**

Albuquerque, NM - The Albuquerque Housing Authority (AHA), the largest housing authority in New Mexico, announces its first ever online admissions lottery for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers for rental assistance benefits. This is the first time in over four years that the AHA has opened the application process to accept new pre-applications for admission to the AHA Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance program.

The new annual online admissions lottery system offers the public a healthy alternative to the long wait times and administrative burdens that plagued the previous system of a traditional waiting list in which applicants applied in person at the office and then could wait up to 5 years or longer to be contacted for an intake interview to see if they qualified for rental assistance benefits. Under the new lottery system, pre-applications will be accepted on an annual basis and applicants selected at random to be screened for eligibility. Those not selected that remain interested in the program can then re-apply the following year. This is a more efficient system for maintaining current contact information for a pool of interested applicants and allows applicants the benefit of knowing the status of their application within a year time frame.

The public can apply online for free anytime between March 15, 2018 and April 15, 2018. It does not matter when you apply online for the lottery as long you complete your pre-application online and receive a confirmation number from the website by April 15, 2018. Members of the public are to apply online at www.abqha.org and are encouraged to read through the information packet and watch the video which answers many common questions. Those who require reasonable accommodation due to disability may contact the AHA office 505-764-3953 for more information.

“The new Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Lottery represents a progressive step forward in administering this valuable resource in Albuquerque” remarked Deputy Director Andrew Estocin. “The Lottery also balances the needs of all the members of our community to ensure this valuable housing resource serves a diverse population including those who are homeless and those working households with very low incomes.”

The AHA Section 8 HCV rental assistance program serves nearly 3,900 households in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho and Bernalillo County and supports the local economy with over \$23,000,000 in rent payments to landlords annually. The AHA Section 8 HCV rental assistance program is funded entirely by a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



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