

## Local Preferences [24 CFR 982.207; HCV p. 4-16]

PHAs are permitted to establish local preferences, and to give priority to serving families that meet those criteria. HUD specifically authorizes and places restrictions on certain types of local preferences. HUD also permits the PHA to establish other local preferences, at its discretion. Any local preferences established must be consistent with the PHA plan and the consolidated plan, and must be based on local housing needs and priorities that can be documented by generally accepted data sources.

### PHA Policy

The PHA will use the following local preferences:

- Veteran Preference: This preference is available to a family whose Head of household, spouse, or co-head (or surviving spouse thereof) is a person who has served in the active military, naval, or air service (full time duty in the Armed Forces, other than active duty for training), and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable. Proof of service, in the form of Department of Defense Form 214, will be required at time of eligibility determination.
- Disability Preference: This preference is extended to disabled persons or families with a disabled member as defined by HUD (42 U.S.C. 423(d) and 42 U.S.C. 15502(8)). Proof of disability will be required at time of eligibility determination.

Note: A person, whose claim has been denied by the Social Security Administration, is **not** eligible for the Disability preference, even if the decision is under appeal.

- Excessive Wait Preference: At the discretion of the Director, Housing Choice Voucher Program, preference status will be granted to all applicants who have been on the waiting list for a specified number of years. The Director will specify the number of years considered “excessive.”
- Victim Protection Preference: At the discretion of the Director, Housing Choice Voucher Program, applicants will be moved to the top of the waiting list if they live in assisted housing and their life is threatened because they are a victim of or witness to a crime and are cooperating with law enforcement. Proof of eligibility will be required from law enforcement officials in the form of a letter certifying that the applicant meets the above requirements.
- Federally-Declared Disaster Preference: At the discretion of the Director, Housing Choice Voucher Program, applicants will be moved to the top of the waiting list if they have been involuntarily displaced in Federally-declared disaster areas within the PHA’s jurisdiction.

The PHA will offer a preference to any family that has been terminated from its HCV program due to insufficient program funding.