What is rental assistance?

Rental assistance, like Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8), makes homes like yours affordable to people with limited incomes.

It is a partnership between landlords, tenants, and a Housing Authority. Landlords are critical to maintaining and increasing affordable housing options in our community. We hope to welcome you as a partner soon!

Landlord Benefits

- **Timely, guaranteed rent payments.** In 2019, the average per-unit rent assistance payment to partner landlords was $865/month ($10,377 per year).

- **Reduced turnover and vacancy costs.** Twin Cities voucher-holders average 7 years since move-in. SEVEN YEARS!

- **Responsible tenants.** Rental assistance is scarce. After waiting years for the assistance, voucher-holders are motivated to care for their apartment and follow lease terms, or they risk losing their assistance and their home.

- **A problem solving partner.** Our staff is trained to support tenants and to remind tenants of their lease obligations, so their problems don’t become your problems.

- **Satisfaction from helping others.**

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**STEPS TO ACCEPT RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

1. **Owner** chooses to accept rental assistance and advertises “vouchers accepted.”

2. **Applicant** locates and applies for rental unit.

3. **Owner** screens and selects applicant for tenancy.

4. **Applicant** submits Request for Tenancy Approval form to Housing Authority for rent review. If approved, the Housing Authority schedules move-in inspection.

5. **Housing Authority** performs Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspection.

6. **Housing Authority** sends Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Contract to **Owner**.
   - **Owner** sends required documentation to Housing Authority, including an executed lease and a signed HAP Contract.

7. **Monthly Housing Assistance Payments** are paid to the owner on behalf of the tenant until the HAP Contract ends.
How do I pre-apply or get involved in a voucher program?

There is no pre-approval or certification process. Simply advertise using the phrase “Vouchers Accepted.” Landlords can advertise for free with HousingLink (housinglink.org).

What happens when I decide to accept a tenant who has a voucher?

Renting to someone with a voucher is similar to renting to a family who does not have assistance. There are several programs, and they all work in a similar way. This flyer references forms and standards for the most common program.

What are the ongoing requirements to accept rental assistance?

2 simple steps:

• Let us know of any proposed changes in the rent agreement, lease terms, or lease violations.
• Provide housing that meets HQS Inspection Standards. Inspection occurs at initial move-in and annually or biennially, landlords only need to attend the initial inspection.

For more detailed information, go to HousingLink.org/Rental-Assistance