

Appendix A: Housing Choice Voucher Program vs. Continuum of Care Program

	Housing Choice Voucher Program	Continuum of Care Program - Permanent Supportive Housing with Rental Assistance
What is the program?	Rental assistance program.	Rental assistance program with supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities.
Who funds the program?	HUD Office of Public and Indian Housing.	HUD Office of Community Planning and Development.
What agencies can administer the funding at the local level?	Public housing agencies (PHAs).	Nonprofit organizations, public housing agencies (PHAs), states, local governments, and instrumentalities of state or local government.
How does an agency receive funding?	PHAs receive a contract from HUD. Renewals are automatic.	Eligible agencies apply through their local Continuum of Care (CoC). Renewals are not automatic.
Does HUD require match funding?	No match funding is required.	Twenty-five percent of the entire grant must be matched with cash or in-kind sources.
What type of rental assistance is allowed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenant-based rental assistance (TRA) Project-based vouchers (PBV) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenant-based rental assistance (TRA) Sponsor-based rental assistance (SRA) Project-based rental assistance (PRA)
What are the eligible uses of program funds?	Program funds support rental assistance. PHAs also receive a monthly administrative fee based on the number of units leased.	Program funds support rental assistance, security deposits, vacancy payments, damage payments, and administrative costs.
Who is eligible for assistance?	Very low-income families and individuals (at or below 50% of area median income) are eligible. Participants must be U.S. citizens, or non-citizens with “eligible immigration status.”	Individuals and families that are homeless and disabled according to the definitions used by HUD’s homeless assistance programs are eligible. There are no income eligibility criteria.
How does a household apply for assistance?	Eligible participants must apply at their local PHA. PHAs accept HCV applications when their waiting lists are open.	The application process is determined by each recipient agency and the Continuum of Care.
Are there specific target populations?	Seventy-five percent of households admitted to the program must have incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income.	At least one member of the household must have a disability as defined by HUD. Additional targeting may be included in the CoC Notice of Funding Availability.

	HCV Program	CoC Program
What are reasons for being denied assistance?	<p>Applicants will be denied if they do not meet income requirements. A PHA may also prohibit admission of a household if it determines that any household member has recently engaged in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent or drug-related criminal activity • Other criminal activity which may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents or persons residing in the immediate vicinity • Other criminal activity which may threaten the health or safety of the owner, property management staff, or persons performing a function or responsibility on behalf of the PHA <p>The PHA must also establish standards that prohibit admission if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any household member is currently engaging in illegal use of a drug; • The PHA has reasonable cause to believe that a household member's illegal drug use or a pattern of illegal drug use may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents; • Any household member has ever been convicted of manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing; or • The applicant is a subject to registration as a lifetime sex offender under a state program. 	<p>Applicants are not homeless or disabled. The regulations also allow programs to exclude registered sex offenders under certain circumstances.</p>
In what housing can assistance be used?	<p>All housing must meet Housing Quality Standards and have gross rents that are determined to be reasonable in comparison to non-assisted units with similar size, condition, amenities, location, etc.</p>	<p>All housing must meet Housing Quality Standards and have gross rents that are determined to be reasonable in comparison to non-assisted units with similar size, condition, amenities, location, etc.</p>

	HCV Program	CoC Program
Is a lease required?	A lease is required, and in general must be for one year.	A lease is required. The initial lease term must be for at least a year, and terminable only for cause.
How much rent do program participants pay?	Program participants must pay rent equal to the highest of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 percent of the household's monthly adjusted income; • 10 percent of the household's monthly gross income; or • The portion of the household's welfare assistance, if any, that is designated for housing costs 	Program participants must pay rent equal to the highest of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 percent of the household's monthly adjusted income; • 10 percent of the household's monthly gross income; or • The portion of the household's welfare assistance, if any, that is designated for housing costs
Is there a minimum rent charge?	The PHA may impose a minimum rent of up to \$50, regardless of income, but this requirement may be waived for extenuating circumstances.	The agency is not allowed to impose a minimum rent charge.
Are there limitations on where a program participants can live?	TRA: Participants may move with a voucher (referred to as <i>portability</i>) as long as there is a PHA administering the program in the new locality. PHAs may put limits on portability such as requiring new participants who resided outside of the PHA's jurisdiction when the voucher was first issued to live within the PHA's jurisdiction for a specific amount of time (not to exceed a year). PBV: Participants must live in a specific unit. Participants who have resided in the PBV-assisted unit for at least one year have the right to move and continue to receive HCV assistance by requesting a tenant-based voucher or comparable resource from the PHA.	TRA: Participants may be required to live in a specific area for their entire period of participation, or in a specific structure for the first year and in a specific area for the remainder of the period of participation. PRA: participants must live in a specific unit. SRA: Participants must live in a unit leased by a non-profit organization.
Are supportive services required?	Supportive services are not required.	Supportive services are not required, but must be available to program participants to enable them to live independently throughout the duration of their residence in the project.
Where are program policies documented?	Relevant program policies are documented in the PHA's HCV Administrative Plan.	Recipients are required to document some procedures for managing the project.