

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
HOUSING AUTHORITY

TO: HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMISSIONERS
FROM: REBECCA LANE, MANAGER
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM UTILIZATION
UPDATE

AGENDA ACTION: NONE

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Department of Housing and Community Services that the Housing Authority hold a study session to receive information regarding utilization in the Housing Choice Voucher program. This item is for information only and no action will be taken during the study session.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this study session is to provide information regarding utilization in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. Program utilization is generally measured as the number of vouchers leased compared to the total number of vouchers a Public Housing Agency is contracted to administer. The study session will identify current utilization statistics for the City of Santa Rosa HCV programs and discuss factors that influence utilization.

BACKGROUND

The HCV program is a rental assistance program funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The program is administered locally by the staff of the Department of Housing and Community Services (HCS) as the Public Housing Authority (PHA) and is overseen by the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

An important metric in the HCV program is voucher utilization. Voucher utilization is determined by the number of vouchers leased on the first of any month divided by the number of vouchers that the PHA is authorized to administer under its Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) with HUD. Utilization can be measured across a PHA's entire portfolio of programs as well as within special purpose voucher programs, such

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as the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program and the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program.

Voucher utilization can be influenced both directly and indirectly by a number of factors, including, but not limited to:

- Payment Standards (the maximum monthly assistance payment for a family assisted on the program);
- Fair Market Rents (set by HUD and used as the basis for the Payment Standards);
- Rental market factors in the PHA's jurisdiction;
- Resources available to tenants, such as security deposit assistance, housing navigation and housing stabilization services; and
- Owner participation

PRIOR HOUSING AUTHORITY REVIEW

Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from holding a study session.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.

COUNCIL/BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

None

CONTACT

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