



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

Dear Executive Director:

I know that many of you have been looking for ways you can better serve veterans through your Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) programs. One excellent option that I hope you will consider is establishing a local HCV program tenant selection preference for veterans. Such a preference can significantly reduce the time that HCV eligible veterans will be required to wait for a voucher. The tenant-based assistance provided through the HCV program will enable veterans to obtain stable, affordable housing and can make it easier for them to receive needed services since the voucher provides veterans with the option of moving closer to Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, outpatient care facilities, and to the VA centers that provide readjustment counseling services.

Should you decide to adopt a preference for veterans, your agency's administrative plan will have to be revised to reflect this change. Your administrative plan must describe any weights or rankings assigned to the new preference. Based on your analysis of local needs and resources, you should decide whether you wish to limit the number of applicants eligible for your new preference and whether you want to establish a preference for a specific category of applicants such as for homeless veterans.

Before adopting a new preference, your agency would be required to give notice and opportunity for public comment on your proposed preference. The public comment requirement can be met by a public meeting or by offering an opportunity to submit written comments. Your new preference must also be consistent with your Public Housing Agency (PHA) plan and the Consolidated Plan that covers the jurisdiction of your agency. Although HUD no longer approves administrative plans, you would need to provide a copy of your revised administrative plan to your local HUD field office.

I urge you to seriously consider establishing a selection preference for veterans. If you need further guidance, please contact the staff of the Office of Public Housing in your local HUD field office or staff of the Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division (HVMOD) in HUD Headquarters. The phone number of the HVMOD is (202) 708-0477.

Sincerely,

Orlando J. Cabrera
Assistant Secretary

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