

# HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS (HOPWA) PROGRAM

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## GENERAL

**Q. What is the HOPWA Program?**

**A.** HOPWA is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Program that provides rental assistance and supportive services to eligible low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS.

**Q. How do I become a participant in the HOPWA Program?**

**A.** All participants must be referred through the Coordinated Entry System. You must contact a Coordinated Access Navigator Site to complete the screening process. Once a slot in the HOPWA Program becomes available, eligible applicants will be selected from this system. To view a list of Coordinated Access Navigator Sites, visit MOHS' website.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Q. What documentation is required to determine eligibility?**

**A.**
- Coordinated Access assessment
- Verification of HIV/AIDS diagnosis
- Household income verification
- Insurance card
- Valid identification for all household members over 18
- Social Security Cards for all household members
- Birth Certificates for all household members

**Q. What are the additional eligibility requirements?**

**A.**
- Must meet income requirements
- Must be active in case management services
- Must be able to live in the home independently or with an approved live-in aide/caretaker

## RENTAL SUBSIDY VOUCHER

**Q. How much is the voucher?**

**A.** Rental subsidy amounts are determined by the current Fair Market Rate and Rent Reasonableness values as set by HUD.

**Q. Is the voucher permanent?**

**A.** Yes, however, voucher holders must abide by all voucher guidelines and regulations. A voucher holder may choose to relinquish their voucher at any time.

**Q. Is the voucher transferable out of state?**

**A.** No, however, after one year in the program, you may relocate to another participating jurisdiction upon approval.

*For questions about the referral process, call 410-935-9862 or 410-545-1511*
*For landlord inquiries and programmatic questions, call 410-935-7551*

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES



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## HOUSING SEARCH

**Q. Will a list of available units be provided?**

**A.** Your Housing Contract Specialist may be able to refer you to available units, landlords, or placement coordinators. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the voucher holder to locate an available unit.

**Q. What is the length of time to locate a unit?**

**A.** The voucher holder has 90 days to locate a unit. If a unit is not located within the 90 days, you may contact your Housing Contract Specialist to request an extension.

**Q. Does the HOPWA Program assist with application fees and security deposits?**

**A.** The HOPWA Program does **not** assist with application fees. Depending on funding availability, security deposit assistance may be available if all other resources have been exhausted, but it is not guaranteed.

**Q. How many bedrooms can I have?**

**A.** The number of bedrooms and bedroom sizes are dependent upon the age, gender, and special needs of the household members.

**Q. What if I need a live-in aide/caretaker?**

**A.** Participants requesting a room for a live-in aide must provide medical documentation verifying the need. A physician must detail the diagnosis, length of time the live-in aide is needed, and their daily tasks. This information must be updated annually and the live-in aide/caretaker must sign the lease.

The live-in aide has no rights to the unit and must immediately vacate the home at the voucher holder's request. In the unfortunate event that the voucher holder dies or is no longer eligible for the voucher; the live-in aide will be given notice to vacate the premises.

## OTHER

**Q. What other services are available to participants?**

**A.**
- **Social Services & Support:** resource coordination, advocacy, and employment assistance.
- **Senior Wellness Program:** connecting seniors to critical resources to maintain independent living and improve health outcomes.
- **Ryan White Grant Funding:** financial assistance for eviction prevention.

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