



**Notice of Funding Availability for
HUD's Fiscal Year 2017 Mainstream NOFA:
Frequently Asked Questions**

Any questions submitted to MainstreamVouchers@hud.gov will be answered in this document. The document will be updated periodically and reposted with the date it was updated.

1. How do I download the NOFA from Grants.gov?

- a) To download the NOFA from the [View Grant Opportunity](#) page on Grants.gov, click on the "Package" tab.
- b) Click "Apply" in the far right column. (Note: You may also view the NOFA by clicking "Preview", however, starting the application process is recommended so you will get updates about the application package. If you click "Preview" skip to step 4 below.)
- c) Login or register.
- d) Click the "Download Instructions" button.
- e) A zip file will download to your computer. The full text of the NOFA will appear in this folder as "Mainstream NOFA".

For more information on how to use Grants.gov, visit the [Online User Guide](#).

2. Is there an official website for the Mainstream Voucher program?

HUD is working on developing a webpage for the Mainstream Voucher program. For now, all current information about the Mainstream Voucher program may be found in the Highlights section of the [HCV program homepage](#). Information about this NOFA is also available on HUD's [Funding Opportunities webpage](#).

3. Is there any guidance on how long the narratives can be?

HUD has not set a limit to the length of the narratives in the application. The narratives are meant to be provided as part of completing the HUD-52515 Funding Application. The applicant agency may attach additional pages if necessary. HUD expects agencies to focus their responses on the critical information required to answer the narrative prompts listed under #5 in Section B. 1. Content (on page 20 of 32 of the NOFA).

4. I am a non-elderly person with disabilities who needs housing, may I apply for assistance?

No, only PHAs that administer voucher programs and non-profits that administer mainstream voucher assistance are eligible to apply for funding. Once awarded, the agencies that receive funding will use the funds to assist non-elderly persons with disabilities.

5. I am a small business owner. May I apply to receive assistance under this NOFA?

No, only PHAs that administer voucher programs and non-profits that administer mainstream voucher assistance are eligible to apply for funding.



PHA Eligibility

6. Are Indian Housing Authorities (IHAs) eligible?

IHAs are not eligible to apply. Only PHAs that administer housing choice voucher (HCV) assistance and non-profits that already administer HCV mainstream assistance are eligible to apply. IHAs are not eligible to administer HCV assistance.

7. For a PHA to qualify, does the authority need to have an existing voucher program?

Yes, only PHAs that administer housing choice voucher assistance are eligible to apply.

8. We are a small PHA. Does our PHA have to be a certain size to be awarded mainstream vouchers?

There is not a minimum PHA size. The minimum funding that may be awarded is \$75,000. PHAs should consider their capacity to lease these vouchers when considering how much funding to request.

9. Our PHA only administers vouchers, we do not have any public housing units. Are we eligible to apply?

Yes, PHAs that administer only housing choice vouchers are eligible to apply.

Funding

10. Are mainstream vouchers funded through the regular HCV HAP budget?

Existing mainstream 5-year vouchers and the vouchers to be awarded under this NOFA are renewed under a separate line item in the budget.

11. How long will the mainstream voucher funding be funded? The NOFA indicates that \$13 million from 2017 and \$385 million from 2018 are available, but the NOFA is for \$100 million. Is HUD planning on holding these funds in order to fund 4-years-worth of mainstream vouchers?

HUD will award up to \$100 million through this NOFA. That represents the 2017 funding and up to \$87 million of the 2018 incremental funding. This funding is for one year of voucher assistance, and HUD expects the funding awarded through this NOFA to be renewed annually. HUD will award the rest of 2018 incremental funding through one or more future NOFAs.

12. Does the PHA receive admin fee funding using the same formula we receive admin funding for HCV and our existing mainstream vouchers?

Yes, admin fees for mainstream vouchers are prorated at the same level as regular housing choice vouchers.

13. Will HAP funds be prorated at the same level as regular housing choice vouchers?

No, HAP for mainstream vouchers will be fully funded at the inflated CY VMS HAP and leasing cost entered by the PHA.

14. When are the funds anticipated to be available?

The funds will be available immediately upon award.



15. Will there be a deadline for when the awarded mainstream vouchers must be leased up?

There is not an official deadline, however, HUD expects that PHAs will make every effort to utilize at least 80% of the vouchers within the first year. If the PHA does not maintain a leasing rate of at least 80%, HUD may recapture and reallocate the funding. PHAs should consider their capacity to lease-up these vouchers when setting the minimum and maximum vouchers requested in their application. Additional vouchers will be available through future NOFAs, and a poor leasing rate could negatively affect a PHAs chances of being awarded future allocations.

16. Will mainstream vouchers use the same payment standards as regular housing choice vouchers in our PHAs jurisdiction? What if our PHA is using Small Area FMRs?

Yes, the same payment standards apply to mainstream vouchers as regular housing choice vouchers. If the PHA is using SAFMRs, then those would apply to mainstream vouchers as well. Persons with disabilities may be eligible to receive a reasonable accommodation for an exception payment standard if they are not able to find an affordable unit that meets their needs. Exception payment standards are granted on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by HUD and the PHA.