Opening the RAD Project-Based Voucher Waitlist

CCFAC Meeting
June 12, 2018
What are RAD Project-Based Vouchers?

- RAD – Project-Based Vouchers (PBV) is the new name for former Public Housing units

- FCRHA currently has 1,060 RAD-PBV units it owns, maintains, and manages, using federal funding
  - Such as Kinglsey in Falls Church; Westford in Alexandria; Ragan Oaks in Fairfax; Barros in Centreville

- Project-Based Vouchers are each tied to a specific one of those 1,060 housing units
  - Unlike Housing Choice Vouchers which are tenant-based, and can be used at any facility, public or private, that accepts them
What is the Waitlist?

- Qualified individuals and families who would like to lease a RAD-PBV unit:
  - Have chosen to be added to a database;
  - Are eligible to receive a RAD-PBV for placement into a specific housing unit when that particular unit becomes available.

- The upcoming Waitlist opening is only for the RAD-PBV units.
The Decision to Open the Waitlist

- The existing Waitlist for FCRHA’s RAD-PBV units is nearly depleted due to those on the Waitlist becoming ineligible, choosing to drop off the Waitlist, or having been placed in a RAD-PBV unit.

- The RAD-PBV Waitlist (at the time, Public Housing) was last opened in 2007.
  - It has taken more than 10 years to go through the Waitlist, placing eligible individuals and families when RAD-PBV units become available.
Waitlist Selection

Before the RAD-PBV Waitlist was closed in 2007, enough people were added to constitute a more than 10-year supply
  - This is a long period to ask families to wait for potential housing

Therefore, the current opening of the Waitlist will be limited to roughly 2,000 people, an amount projected to be able to be served in roughly 2 to 3 years
  - HCD staff reviewed historical turnover in RAD-PBV units;
  - And the Waitlist uptake percentage (the number of people on the Waitlist who remain qualified and interested in a particular unit when it becomes available.)
Waitlist Selection

- Because the amount of people to be added to the Waitlist will be limited to the projected 2-3 year supply, once the 2-week application period has ended, HCD will run a computer-generated, random selection to determine which applicants are placed on the Waitlist.

- This is not a first-come, first-serve basis, and ensures individuals and families can apply at any time during the 2-week window and have an equal chance of obtaining placement on the Waitlist.
Timing

- The Waitlist will open for applications from July 10\textsuperscript{th} through July 23\textsuperscript{rd}

- The randomized selection will be run shortly after the application period closing

- Notices of results will be sent out after the randomized selection occurs
How to Apply

- Individuals / Families apply Online to the Waitlist
  - Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from any Internet-connected device

- The process is free and takes roughly 5 minutes, and only requires that the applicant have an email address

- Applicants will be able to identify special needs, such as mobility and sight, on their application
  - These do not affect the random selection to the Waitlist, but enable individuals with identified special needs on the Waitlist to be prioritized when a special needs RAD-PBV unit becomes available
HCD is working with the Office of Public Affairs on a Public Kickoff for the opening of the application period.

- Outreach to news media
- Social media
- Flyers at all online registration locations and FCRHA communities
  - As well as other community sites such as grocery stores, faith-based organizations, libraries, and partner agencies
Getting the Word Out

- HCD is working with partners on informing and educating potential customers:
  - County agencies: the Department of Family Services, the Community Services Board, the Disability Services Board, the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, Neighborhood and Community Services, and the Fairfax County Public Schools; and
  - Non-profit stakeholders
Application Access

- HCD will have application sites at a number of locations where there is free, public access to Internet-enabled computers
  - HCD will ensure certain, specific times where trained staff will be available at those sites to assist as needed
Questions?