

## Chapter 19

### MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON PROGRAM

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes HUD regulations and PHA policies related to assisted housing for persons with disabilities under Olmstead implementation efforts to provide community-based options rather than institutional settings.

Part I: Establish a Local Admission Preference:

Part II: Enhance Outreach.

Part III: Develop an Accessible Housing List.

Part IV: Provide Flexibility.

#### PART I: ESTABLISH A LOCAL ADMISSION PREFERENCE

##### 19-I.A. LOCAL PREFERENCES

PHAs may develop a local preference for individuals ready to exit institutional care. PHAs may include in this preference persons at serious risk of institutionalization. The preference may be limited to a set number of vouchers or a percentage of vouchers as they become available.

##### PHA Policy

The PHA has developed a local preference for individuals ready to exit institutional care. The PHA will set aside 5 vouchers for this preference. Chapter 4 discusses the selection method and order of selection based on PHA preferences.

##### 19-I.B. WAITING LIST

PHAs incorporate the preference for individuals ready to exit institutional care and for persons at serious risk of institutionalization in written policies for the HCV program and may open waiting lists strictly to people to whom the preference applies. When opening the waiting list, PHA give public notice in a local newspaper of general circulation, by minority media and other suitable means. Such notices comply with federal nondiscrimination laws in stating where and when to apply and any limitations on who may apply. Upon an adequate number of persons with disabilities meeting the preference, the PHA may again close the waiting list. PHAs may also leave their waiting list open only for this population while keeping the waiting list closed for all other applicants.

##### PHA Policy

The PHA will keep the waiting list open to all applicants.

### **19-I.C. CURRENT APPLICANTS ON THE WAITING LIST**

PHAs ensure that current applicants on the waiting list who qualify for the preference receive the benefit of the preference and move up accordingly on the waiting list. Applicants under this local preference may be assessed for readiness to transition, meaning the actual issuance of a voucher may be timed to coincide with an individual's exit/release plan.

#### PHA Policy

The PHA will ensure that current applicants on the waiting list who qualify for the preference receive the benefit of the preference during the annual purge process. Applicants under this preference will be assessed for readiness to transition and the PHA may time the issuance of a voucher to coincide with an individual's exit/release plan.

### **19-I.D. RESTRICTIONS**

To ensure that individuals with various disabilities are eligible to receive assistance under this preference, PHAs cannot restrict the preference to those referred or approved by a single state agency or to persons with specific disabilities or diagnoses, unless such a restriction is a HUD-approved remedial action.

#### PHA Policy

The PHA will not restrict the preference to those referred or approved by a single state agency or to persons with a specific disability or diagnoses.

## **PART II: ENHANCE OUTREACH**

### **19-II.A. OVERVIEW**

Seek new ways to ensure information regarding the opening of waiting lists reaches eligible individuals who may be ready to transition from institutions and persons at serious risk of institutionalization. Expanded outreach may include advertising the opening of waiting lists to social service agencies, nursing homes, board and care homes, psychiatric hospitals, mental health facilities, and institutions and hospitals for individuals with disabilities in the local service areas. PHAs may choose to contact the facilities via Twitter, Facebook, websites or newsletters.

#### PHA Policy

The PHA will expand outreach to agencies within the local service areas.

## **PART III: DEVELOP AN ACCESSIBLE HOUSING LIST**

### **19-III.A. OVERVIEW**

Enhance the list of known accessible HCV units by adding information about partially accessible units in the area, including accessible features and bedroom size for each unit. Present the need for accessible housing to private providers and share the list of outreach agencies to interested landlords. Encourage private landlords with accessible units to participate in the HCV program.

#### PHA Policy

The PHA will enhance the list of accessible HCV units and provide specific unit information. The PHA will contact current and prospective landlords with lists of outreach agencies and encourage private landlords with accessible units to participate in the HCV program.

## **PART IV: PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY**

### **19-IV.A. OVERVIEW**

Adopt a policy to address the challenges related to portability and locating accessible housing when considering request for voucher extensions. Permit flexible application procedures/locations, including “in home” application process.

#### PHA Policy

The PHA will refer to the Reasonable Accommodation Policy regarding any issues surrounding voucher extensions, flexible application procedures, and any other issues that may arise.