

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE REGARDING ADDITION OF A  
HOMELESS PREFERENCE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND RENT ASSISTANCE AND  
ADDITION OF THE FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE VOUCHER PROGRAM  
TO THE RENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Public Notice is hereby given that the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM) will make changes to its Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) for public housing and to its Administrative Plan for its rent assistance programs.

The first proposed change would amend the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) for public housing, and the Administrative Plan which governs its rent assistance programs to add a new preference for the homeless, though it will limit it to only applications that are directly referred from the Milwaukee Continuum of Care partnership agencies.

A second proposed change will also incorporate programs around youth aging out of foster care into the Administrative Plan Section 12.1 ("Waiting List Admissions and Special Admissions").

The Homeless Preference Section is added to the ACOP and Administrative Plan as follows:

**Homeless Preference**

Those that are eligible for the homeless preference include individuals and families that meet the definition of homeless as defined in Category 1 or Category 4 homelessness in HUD's PIH Notice 2013-15 (HA). HACM will rely on the Continuum of Care partner to verify that the individual or family qualifies for the preference. These definitions are below:

Category 1: An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- a. An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground; or
- b. An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or
- c. An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;

Category 4: Any individual or family who:

- a. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence; and
- b. Has no other residence; and
- c. Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing

At the time(s) that the waiting lists are opened for this limited preference (as needed), HACM will provide notice to the Continuum of Care organizations of the total number of slots available at the time for this preference (which will be limited to a maximum number). In addition, the notice to the Continuum of Care organizations will include any additional criteria for the preference and the deadline for referrals.

The Continuum of Care partnership will continue to provide case management for homeless individuals housed under this program to help ensure stability of housing.

The following addition will be added to the Administrative Plan for youth aging out of foster care, as follows:

### **Youth Aging Out of Foster Care**

There are several kinds of programs that the Housing Authority has for youth aging out of foster care.

**Foster Youth to Independence (FYI)** is a program under which housing choice vouchers are offered for youth to prevent homelessness among youth with a current or prior history of child welfare involvement. The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM) will accept referrals of youth certified by the public child welfare agency (PCWA), as eligible for assistance. These FYI housing choice vouchers assist eligible youth subject to availability. Eligible youth to be assisted are certified by the partnering PCWA and must meet the following conditions:

1. Has attained at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age;
2. Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days, in accordance with a transition plan described in section 475(5)(H) of the Social Security Act; and
3. Is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older.

Eligibility is not limited to single persons. For example, pregnant and/or parenting youth are eligible to receive assistance under this notice assuming they otherwise meet eligibility requirements.

The partnering PCWA is responsible for providing case management services for all youth receiving the FYI voucher, per HUD requirements. None of the case management responsibilities are the responsibility of HACM.

For provisions of supportive services, the PCWA will refer all youth who are under the age of 21 and exited from out-of-home care after age 18, to the Transition Regional Authority (TRA) partner.

For provisions of supportive services, the PCWA will refer all youth who are aged 21 or over to the Continuum of Care partner.

The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee is not required to maintain full documentation that demonstrates youth's eligibility. In order to maintain an audit trail, the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee will keep the referral or certification received from the PCWA.

The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee will have discretion to decide whether or not to deny admission to an applicant with certain types of criminal history, or terminate assistance if a tenant, household member, or guest engages in certain drug related or other criminal activity on or near the premises. The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee will follow the same regulations as the HCV Program when deciding to deny an application or terminate assistance for FYI applicants and participants.

These vouchers are limited by statute to 36 months of eligibility for a specific household. HACM must continue to use these vouchers for eligible youth upon turnover at the end of the 36 months.

**Project-Based Vouchers for Youth Aging out of Foster Care:** In addition, the Project-based Voucher program includes certain housing developments or buildings that serve a special targeted population for youth aging out of foster care. Similar to the FYI program, referrals of youth will be certified as eligible for assistance by the public child welfare agency (PCWA) and supportive services will be provided as described above in the FYI program. These project-based vouchers are not limited to 36 months of eligibility.

**This is a 45 day notice with an opportunity to present public written comments regarding this change.**

Interested persons are invited to comment on the draft policy at the public hearing. Written comments must be submitted to Mr. Antonio Pérez, Secretary-Executive Director, Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, P.O. Box 324, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53201. Written comments must be submitted no later than noon on or before Monday, June 7, 2021.

A public hearing will be conducted on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 1:30 pm via virtual meeting. Links and phone-in information will be published prior to the meeting at <https://milwaukee.legistar.com/>