



August 30, 2023

HCV PROGRAM NEWS

PIH Issues Notice Expanding Uses of EHV Services Fee

Late yesterday HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing ([PIH](#)) issued Notice [PIH 2023-23](#) titled “Emergency Housing Voucher ([EHV](#)): Expanded Use of the EHV Services Fee.” The notice amends the EHV operating requirements [notice](#) that was issued on May 5, 2021. Specifically, yesterday’s notice adds two new eligible activities that may be funded with the EHV services fees:

- Rental arrears to private landlords for admission: The PHA may provide applicants with rental arrear assistance for some or all of the applicant’s rental arrears to a private landlord but only if the rental arrear is a barrier to leasing the EHV unit.
- Services that support EHV families in fulfilling their family obligations under the EHV program: The PHA may also use the services fee funding to mitigate barriers that individual families may face in maintaining occupancy of a unit with an EHV, such as:
 - Providing access to case management, wrap-around services, life skills training, financial stability training, mental health care, and/or a stability coordinator.
 - The PHA may also use the services fee for services to remedy a lease violation/prevent an eviction.
 - PHAs may pay fees for families to obtain vital documents needed to establish eligibility for the program and/or required by landlords as part of their rental application.

The notice also revises the descriptions of several of the existing activities to provide additional uses for the special fees:

- Housing search assistance: funds may be used to provide housing mobility services to encourage moves to high opportunity neighborhoods.
- Owner incentive payments: funds may be used for owners with accessible units or owners that will make the living conditions accessible (interior/exterior structural modifications) for a person with disabilities.
- Moving expenses: funds may be also used for storage expenses and lock change fees.
- Essential household items: funds may be used for furniture, toiletries, and cleaning supplies. The PHA may provide a prepaid gift card directly to the family, provided the PHA verifies the family purchased essential household items and obtains and maintains appropriate supporting documentation.

The notice states that there are no changes to VMS reporting requirements as the revisions and the eligible uses for the service fees do not alter the four main components with respect to how the service fee expenses are reported in VMS. The PHA must update its PHA administrative plan with the eligible uses implemented by the PHA and the parameters and requirements established by the PHA if it plans to use the services fee for any new activities. The PHA must also report the expenditures in the appropriate field in VMS.

Deadline to Submit SEMAP Certifications in IMS/PIC Extended until Today

In an email to executive directors, the Department of Housing and Urban Development ([HUD](#)) announced that it has extended the deadline to submit fiscal year end (FYE) 06/30/2023 SEMAP certifications to the **end of today, August 30, 2023**. According to the email:

By regulation, PHAs with 06/30/2023 FYE dates were required to submit their annual SEMAP certifications in IMS/PIC 60 days after the FYE, which was August 29, 2023. Unfortunately, due to technical issues, Secure Systems was unavailable for the majority of August 29, 2023. As a result, PHAs were unable to authenticate and log into IMS/PIC and may not have been able to submit the required certification by the established deadline. The Office of Housing Voucher (HCV) programs has authorized the extension of the due date for FYE 06/30/2023 SEMAP certifications to the end of today, August 30, 2023.

The email also states that since FYE 06/30/2023 is not a small PHA deregulation year, all PHAs with a FYE of 6/30 should be submitting regardless of size.



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