

## **Exhibit 11-8**

### **Mainstream Voucher Program**

Rental assistance for non-elderly, disabled families was consolidated under the Housing Choice Voucher Program in the Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-374). AHFC first received Mainstream vouchers in the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2017. The Mainstream Voucher Program at AHFC combines rental assistance with services overseen by the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

#### **1. Voucher Increments**

AHFC has two Mainstream voucher programs: one is funded directly by HUD, and the other is funded through a Reimbursable Services Agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health.

##### **1.A Mainstream – HUD-Funded**

These vouchers are governed by the rules set forth in the Notice of Funding Availability, FR-6100-N-43, April 18, 2018 and Housing Choice Voucher Program regulations at 24 CFR 982. AHFC received Mainstream vouchers in the following increments.

- HUD funded 50 vouchers effective [November 1, 2018](#).
- HUD funded 15 vouchers effective [June 1, 2020](#) under the [CARES Act](#).

##### **1.B Mainstream 811 – DHSS-Funded**

These vouchers serve persons who were initially referred for the Section 811 PRA Program, but were unable to obtain a residential unit in that program.

- DHSS funded \$109,318 effective [October 15, 2019](#).

##### **1.C Administration**

AHFC will administer Mainstream vouchers under the same rules as a Moving to Work Set Aside Program Voucher except as described in the sections below.

###### **1.C.1. Mainstream – HUD**

In general:

1. Mainstream vouchers are reissued to DHSS referrals only.
2. These vouchers do not have time limits.
3. Mainstream vouchers will have its own monthly budget report as these vouchers have a separate funding stream. These vouchers are in addition to each office's regular voucher allocation.

4. Mainstream families may transfer to another AHFC voucher area by following AHFC's current policy in the Family Moves exhibit.
5. Mainstream vouchers are eligible for portability out of the state of Alaska by following AHFC's current policy in the Family Portability exhibit.
6. These vouchers are reported to HUD. This means staff is required to follow EIV procedures.

### **1.C.2. Mainstream 811 - DHSS**

In general:

1. Mainstream 811 vouchers will have its own monthly budget report as these vouchers have a separate funding stream. These vouchers are in addition to each office's regular voucher allocation.
2. Mainstream 811 families may transfer to another AHFC voucher area by following AHFC's current policy in the Family Moves exhibit.
3. These vouchers are reported to HUD. This means staff is required to follow EIV procedures.

### **1.D Eligible Population**

Mainstream vouchers are reserved for those families who meet HUD's definition of a non-elderly, disabled family as shown in the Qualify as a Family exhibit. The family must also:

- Be transitioning out of institutional or other segregated settings, or
- Be at serious risk of institutionalization, or
- Be homeless, or
- Be at risk of becoming homeless.

DHSS will perform these verifications and keep the documentation in its file records.

### **1.E Program Locations**

Mainstream initial assistance is available in the following AHFC voucher communities: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and Soldotna. AHFC and DHSS may choose to expand the availability based on future awards. Once the initial residency requirement is met, these vouchers may move to any AHFC voucher community.

Mainstream 811 vouchers may be used in any AHFC voucher community.

### **1.F DHSS Information Requests**

Families interested in this program must be referred through DHSS.

## **2. Waiting Lists**

AHFC will not run a waiting list for Mainstream applicants. These families may apply for other open AHFC rental assistance programs such as the Public Housing (PH) program while participating in the Mainstream program. All applicants for AHFC's programs are placed on waiting lists in accordance with AHFC's policy and eligibility requirements at the time of application.

## **3. Applicant Screening**

Mainstream applicants are subject to the same criteria as other voucher families. Applicant families that are ineligible will receive the Ineligibility Notice along with the Applicant Informal Review. AHFC will copy the service provider point of contact with the Ineligibility Notice so they may assist the family.

## **4. Program Operations**

All opportunities available to MTW voucher families are available to Mainstream families. The following sections detail exceptions to HCV Administrative Plan operations.

### **4.A Examinations**

All Mainstream families will be subject to regular (annual) income and composition examinations. Families are not required to maintain supportive services in order to remain eligible for Mainstream continuing assistance.

### **4.B Inspection Requirements**

Mainstream vouchers will follow the inspection requirements as set forth in the Housing Quality Standards Inspections chapter.

### **4.C Data Monitoring**

The Central Office will produce a report monthly for staff use. This report will be shared with DHSS to assess current budget usage, status of shopping vouchers, number of vouchers leased, and number of available vouchers.

### **4.D Moves and Ports**

Families are eligible to move their Mainstream voucher to any AHFC community with a voucher program. Returned vouchers will go back to their originating community. AHFC and DHSS will coordinate regularly to ensure full utilization of available Mainstream vouchers.

Only Mainstream-HUD vouchers are eligible to port their assistance outside of Alaska. Mainstream 811 vouchers are funded by the state of Alaska and must remain here.

## **5. Archiving**

Staff will follow archiving procedures for HCV when archiving Mainstream files. This includes ineligible and withdrawn applicant and participant files.

## **6. Definitions**

### **6.A Eligible Household**

A household composed of one or more non-elderly persons with disabilities, which may include additional household members who are not non-elderly persons with disabilities. A household where the sole member is an emancipated minor is not an eligible household.

### **6.B Non-Elderly Person with Disabilities (for purposes of determining eligibility)**

A person 18 years of age or older and less than 62 years of age, and who:

1. Has a disability, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 423;
2. Is determined, pursuant to HUD regulations, to have a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that:
  - a) Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;
  - b) Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently, and
  - c) Is of such a nature that the ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; or
3. Has a developmental disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. 6001.

### **6.C Institutional or Other Segregated Settings**

Institutional or other segregated settings include, but are not limited to:

1. congregate settings populated exclusively or primarily with individuals with disabilities;
2. congregate settings characterized by regimentation in daily activities, lack of privacy or autonomy, policies limiting visitors, or limits on individuals' ability to engage freely in community activities and to manage their own activities of daily living; or
3. settings that provide for daytime activities primarily with other individuals with disabilities.

### **6.D At Serious Risk of Institutionalization**

Includes an individual with a disability who as a result of a public entity's failure to provide community services or its cut to such services will likely cause a decline in

health, safety, or welfare that would lead to the individual's eventual placement in an institution. This includes individuals experiencing lack of access to supportive services for independent living, long waiting lists for or lack of access to housing combined with community based services, individuals currently living under poor housing conditions or homeless with barriers to geographic mobility, and/or currently living alone but requiring supportive services for independent living. A person cannot be considered at serious risk of institutionalization unless the person has a disability. An individual may be designated as at serious risk of institutionalization either by a health and human services agency, by a community-based organization, or by self-identification.

## **6.E Homeless**

Homeless means:

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;
  - 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;
2. An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:
  - a) The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
  - b) No subsequent residence has been identified; and
  - c) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, needed to obtain other permanent housing;
3. Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:
  - a) Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or

section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);

- b) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
  - c) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and
  - d) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities; chronic physical health or mental health conditions; substance addiction; histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect); the presence of a child or youth with a disability; or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment; or
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;
  - 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.

#### **6.F At Risk of Becoming Homeless**

An individual or family who:

- 1. Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the "Homeless" definition in this section; and
- 2. Meets one of the following conditions:
  - a) Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;
  - b) Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
  - c) Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days of the date of application for assistance;

- d) Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;
- e) Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons, or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 people per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;
- f) Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or
- g) Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.

### **Numbered Memo**

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