

# Move Up Voucher Program

## Purpose

The Move Up Voucher Program is intended to support positive exits from permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, or transitional housing programs for participants who no longer need intensive or site-based services within a program but whose housing stability would be at risk without rental assistance at exit. It is also intended to maximize rental assistance and services resources available in the community by partnering with public housing authorities and best matching people to housing based on their current needs, strengths, and desires.

## Parameters

### Allocation (if any)

Emergency Housing Vouchers used for Move Up are allocated as follows. The initial allocation is 30 vouchers.

- Program type distribution: Split referrals between PSH (one third) and RRH/TH (two thirds).
- Geographic distribution: Even split from eastern half of region and western half. Rice County HRA will serve vouchers for eastern half and Mankato EDA for the western half.

Allocation of other voucher sources for Move Up depends on program requirements and agency service area.

## Eligibility

Participants requesting a Move Up Voucher must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Entered current program within the CoC via Coordinated Entry (CE) referral or entered prior to CE, OR participant entered a CE-exempt victim service program.
- Expressed interest in Move Up Voucher through Provider consultation and assessment for using CoC's standard Move Up referral assessment. RRH/TH Assessment Score threshold =35.
- Demonstrated housing stability in PSH, RRH, or TH and is likely to remain stably housed with a Move Up voucher. Housing stability may be shown with PSH residence for at least two (2) years, RRH or TH residence for at least one (1) year, or another indicator supported by the Provider.
- Has low ongoing service needs to maintain housing (e.g. case management less than once per month) OR has connections to mainstream services to maintain housing.
- Unable to secure housing in the community without subsidy due to fixed or inadequate income.
- Unlikely to receive move-on rental assistance from any other program within 6 months or before program end, whichever is sooner

- Has a post-program housing stability or support plan (or will within 30 days of request).
- Has not been excluded from federally assisted housing due to either lifetime registered sex offender status (self or any household member), prior eviction from federally assisted housing for the manufacture of methamphetamine (self or any household member), or any other non-waivable criteria for assistance. Housing authorities cannot waive this requirement.

## Prioritization

When requests for Move Up Vouchers exceed resources available, requests for Move Up Vouchers will be prioritized as follows.

	Requests from participants in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	Requests from participants in Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) or Transitional Housing (TH)
<b>First Priority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participant has one or more known barrier* to qualify for other federally assisted housing programs.</li> <li>• Participant has a unit where the voucher can be used within 60 days.</li> <li>• Assessment Score (sort order, high to low)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participant has one or more known barrier* to qualify for other federally assisted housing programs.</li> <li>• Participant has a unit where the voucher can be used within 60 days.</li> <li>• Days to move out (sort order, low to high)</li> </ul>
<b>Second Priority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participant has one or more known barrier* to qualify for other federally assisted housing programs.</li> <li>• Assessment Score (sort order, high to low)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participant has one or more known barrier* to qualify for other federally assisted housing programs.</li> <li>• Days to move out (sort order, low to high)</li> </ul>
<b>Third Priority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participant does not have a known barrier* to qualify for other federally assisted housing programs.</li> <li>• Assessment Score (sort order, high to low)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participant does not have a known barrier* to qualify for other federally assisted housing programs.</li> <li>• Days to move out (sort order, low to high)</li> </ul>

### \*Known barriers to qualify for other federally assisted housing:

Households would typically be unable to receive federal rental assistance if

- Any member of the family has been evicted from federally assisted housing in the last five years.
- A PHA has ever terminated assistance under the program for any member of the family.
- Any member of the family has committed fraud, bribery, or any other corrupt or criminal act in connection with any Federal housing program.
- The family currently owes rent or other amounts to the PHA or to another PHA in connection with Section 8 or public housing assistance under the 1937 Act.
- The family has not reimbursed any PHA for amounts paid to an owner under a HAP contract for rent, damages to the unit, or other amounts owed by the family under the lease.
- The family breached an agreement with the PHA to pay amounts owed to a PHA, or amounts paid to an owner by a PHA.
- The family engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior toward PHA personnel.
- The family has been engaged in criminal activity or alcohol abuse.
- The family does not have supporting documentation of Social Security Numbers or eligible immigration status.

## Rationale for eligibility and prioritization criteria:

- Support housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness: Using a standardized assessment to identify housing stability strengths and needs can support a fairer approach across programs and ensure that stability plans address the individual's assets, barriers, and goals. Assisting households in RRH and TH who are near the end of their time in the program but who have ongoing affordability needs prevents potential returns to homelessness. Households with shorter times remaining in the program (especially when housing wait lists are long or they do not qualify) are at highest risk of return. Transition plans and supports for PSH participants who no longer need intensive services provides housing stability and positive exits to other permanent housing for those households.
- Advance racial equity and access for survivors of violence: Barriers to receiving federal rental assistance are overwhelmingly related to justice involvement and rental/payment history. Due to inequities in law enforcement and court systems, Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) households are more likely to have had these experiences that create barriers to housing access. Survivors and persons fleeing domestic violence may also have higher rates of rental issues and justice involvement because of their abuser, which could create barriers for them.
- Decrease time without housing for households currently experiencing homelessness: The Move Up approach opens up PSH, RRH, and TH housing quickly for 30 households currently experiencing homelessness. Programs assisting participants with Move Up requests should plan for immediate CE referral requests and move-ins for new participants.
- Maximize use of resources and reduce duplication of efforts: The Move Up Voucher program creates new partnerships with Housing Authorities for Emergency Housing Vouchers as well as other rental assistance programs. EHVs do not replace or provide a workaround for accessing rental assistance resources and should be directed to households who are not already qualified for other rental assistance and ready to Move Up. Housing Authorities will consider household eligibility for any program or preference available, and Housing Providers and participants should pursue those opportunities from any source offered.

## Implementation

### Forms

All CoC guides, forms and scripts will be posted on the CoC website at <https://threeriverscap.org/continuum-of-care/coordinated-assessment>.

- Move Up Assessment
  - PSH for internal use ([Word](#) document)
  - RRH/TH for internal use ([Word](#) document)
  - All Housing Types for internal use ([Excel](#) document with calculations)
- Move Up Voucher Request
  - [Paper for internal use only](#)
  - [Online form for submittal](#)

Housing Authority Application for Rental Assistance (provided by Housing Authority)

## Procedures for Housing Providers

1. Provider and participant meet to complete a Move Up assessment, evaluate the Move Up opportunity, and decide whether to submit a request. This may be part of regular assessment processes within program.
2. Provider completes the Move Up Voucher Request form with the participant. (Printable assessment and referral request forms are available for internal use.)
3. Provider submits a Move Up Voucher Request to the CoC via online form and attached the assessment form. All requests received will be reviewed weekly and submitted to the participating housing authorities in priority order. Cut off for weekly priority list is Wednesday at 11:59pm.
4. Provider places assessment and request form in program files per internal procedures.
5. Provider receives notice from the CoC that the Move Up Voucher Request was received.
6. Provider receives notice from the CoC whether/when the Move Up referral was made to a participating Housing Authority. Any denials will include a reason. A new request may be submitted for consideration in the following week.
7. Provider and participant review or finalize a post-program housing stability or support plan. (No form provided.)
8. Provider and participant receive notice from the participating Housing Authority when the participant comes up on the priority list for a Move Up voucher.
9. Provider assists participant as necessary to complete application and provide documentation of eligibility for Housing Authority. Assistance may require obtaining a release of information from the Participant to provide disability verification or other information already in Provider files.
10. Provider reports exit from program in HMIS (or alternate database for victim service providers) as instructed.
11. Provider supports Participant upon exit according to support plan or exit plan developed.