



ALBUQUERQUE HOUSING AUTHORITY
“Improving quality of life through housing opportunities”

**Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Closure of the AHA Waiting List
October 9, 2013**

Q: Is the Albuquerque Housing Authority going to close the waiting list (not take new applications)?

A: The Albuquerque Housing Authority is closing the waiting list for Section 8 and Public Housing Applicants who fall into normal categories of service. The waiting list will be kept open for HUD-VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) applicants, NHT (Nursing Home Transition) applicants, and applicants who are experiencing emergency displacement from their homes. AHA will continue to serve applicants who are already on the waiting list by placing them in public housing units or providing them with Section 8 Vouchers.

Q: What is the reason for closing the waiting list?

A: There are presently 4740 applicants on the Section 8 Waiting List and 2840 applicants on the Public Housing waiting list. With over 60,000 households in Albuquerque with an income below \$25,000 per year, the demand for our services far outpaces our supply and our ability to service clients in a timely manner. Applicants who apply today will expect a 2-3 year wait for housing. This wait time does not allow our agency to effectively serve our client base. AHA processes approximately 225 applications per month and if this growth is not managed properly wait times will become even more unreasonable and place a greater burden on other short and long term housing providers.

Q: What is the goal of closing the waiting list?

A: The goal of closing the waiting list is to reorganize operations, screen for applicants who are no longer interested, more efficiently serve the clients currently on the waiting list, and significantly shorten the wait time for applicants to be considered for admission to our programs.

Q: Will closing the waiting list improve AHA Services?

A: Yes, AHA intends to implement a number of changes including an online application and a tenant/landlord services portal that will reduce the amount of time clients need to spend at the AHA office. We also will be removing people from the waiting list who are no longer interested in our services. This will reduce overall wait times.

Q: When will the waiting list close? How long will the waiting list be closed?

A: AHA is considering closing the wait list on December 5th, 2013. The list will be closed until July 1, 2014 unless the Board of Commissioners takes further action. Public notice will be given when all or any part of the wait list is re-opened.

Q: What can I do to help my clients?

A: Service providers can help their clients by ensuring all of their contact information is up to date. They can also communicate that this process is meant not to limit services or harm low income clients but to improve our ability to serve low income households

We welcome your feedback on this issue. Comments can be addressed to Executive Director, Linda Bridge at lbridge@cabq.gov or Associate Director, Andrew Estocin at aestocin@cabq.gov.

