

Section 3.0 SPECIAL ADMISSIONS

3.01 Special Purpose Programs

The HCR Statewide Section 8 Voucher Program currently operates the following special purpose programs in some, but not all, LA jurisdictions:

- Family Unification Program (FUP)
- Mainstream with Disabilities Program
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VASH)

Pursuant to HUD requirements that special purpose programs be targeted to families with specific characteristics, HCR and LAs will use targeted funds solely for their intended purpose(s).

Where applicable, families with targeted characteristics may be selected from the waiting list before non-targeted families who applied before them. In the selection of families with targeted characteristics within the overall group of other families with similar targeted characteristics, families will be selected in the same order of preference as are those families on the regular waiting list.

3.02 Disaster Recovery

When a Federal or State disaster declaration is made in any area of New York State wherein HCR locally administers a Section 8 HCV Program, HCR may, according to the specific needs resulting from each disaster, make vouchers available to respond to disaster needs.

When HCR invokes the disaster recovery policy, LAs may utilize any available new or turnover assistance to assist families.

From existing HCR Section 8 Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) authority, vouchers may be allocated to local programs per the following terms, conditions and necessary steps:

1. On the basis of demonstrated need in each local program area, LAs may request additional Section 8 vouchers from HCR for families/persons that have been either **permanently or indefinitely** displaced as a result of a Federal or State declared disaster **and** that meet all normal program eligibility guidelines.
2. If/when disasters occur, HCR will notify HUD that this provision of HCR's Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan and Administrative Plan is to be invoked.
3. During the term of the Federal or State disaster declaration, income-eligible families already on local program waiting lists will be given first preference in the selection process. Other families affected by the disaster, but who are not on waiting lists, will be added to the list and given the same preference.

4. To be considered for Section 8 assistance, verification of a participant's displacement status **must** be provided by an agency or individual capable of rendering an official decision (for example, codes officer, building/permits officer, etc.). This process must establish that a participant/person has been displaced and that such displacement is of such permanent, indefinite or extended duration that Section 8 is a necessary and appropriate resource.
5. A complete determination of participant eligibility must be made as soon as possible by the LA in conjunction with the damage/displacement assessment.
6. HCR will advise LAs when:
 - the overall supply of vouchers has been depleted; or
 - HCR determines that the situation has stabilized to the point where interim vouchers will no longer be made available.
7. Vouchers will be returned to HCR when families utilizing them:
 - lose eligibility per normal operating procedures (i.e, 30% of participant income equals the unit's gross rent); or
 - are terminated from the program for non-compliance or any other reason. LAs will be notified if there are any changes to these provisions for returning vouchers to HCR.
8. Use of this special form of voucher disaster assistance is predicated on the understanding that once a participant receives a voucher, that assistance may **not** be considered for any fixed term (e.g., six months, one year, etc.); eligibility for continued assistance is handled like that of any other participant in the Section 8 program.