

PORTABILITY

WHERE CAN YOU LIVE?

1. What is Portability?

Portability is your right as a Section 8 Voucher participant to receive tenant-based housing assistance in accordance with federal requirements to lease a unit outside the City of Pawtucket--anywhere in the United States, in a jurisdiction of a PHA with a tenant-based program.

2. What is the purpose and benefit of portability?

The purpose and benefit to portability is to provide you with a wide range of housing choices and to give you the opportunity to seek housing outside of high-poverty areas.

3. Who cannot move under portability?

An applicant cannot utilize portability if at the time the applicant first submitted an application, he/she did not have legal residence in the City of Pawtucket.

If an applicant did not have legal residence at the time of application, the following apply during the 12-month period from the time when this family is first admitted to the program:

- a. The family may lease a unit anywhere in the City of Pawtucket.
- b. The family does not have any right to portability;
- c. The Pawtucket Housing Authority may choose to allow portability during this period depending upon the circumstances.

4. Definition of “Initial Housing Authority”:

Initial housing authority is the housing authority that issues you the Voucher.

5. Definition of “Receiving Housing Authority”:

Receiving housing authority is the housing authority that accepts you from the initial housing authority, and is normally located in the city or town in which you want to move to.

6. Definition of “Leasing-in-Place”:

If the dwelling unit is approvable, an applicant family may select the dwelling unit occupied by the family before selection for participation in the Section 8 Program.

7. What is the procedure if a Voucher participant wants to move under portability?

- a. The family should notify the Pawtucket Housing Authority in writing at least 30 days before you want to move and to which city or town you want to move to.
- b. You must give the Owner of the unit that you are currently under lease with a 30-day written notice.
- c. You must have your current Owner sign a letter releasing you from your current lease.
- d. The PHA will compile a packet for you to bring to the receiving housing authority. The documentation in the packet will certify that you are eligible for Section 8 housing assistance and eligible to move under portability.
- e. The receiving housing authority may either bill Pawtucket Housing Authority for the housing assistance or may provide assistance to you under its own voucher program. If there is not a housing authority with a voucher program in the jurisdiction of the city/town where the dwelling unit is located, the Pawtucket Housing Authority will provide assistance at the new dwelling unit or locate the receiving housing authority responsible for that jurisdiction.
- f. Occupancy standards under the receiving housing authority's jurisdiction may differ from the Pawtucket Housing Authority's jurisdiction. If this is the case, the occupancy standards of the receiving housing authority will apply and the bedroom size of the family's voucher must be changed.