



Now Available to Qualified Households Emergency Housing Vouchers

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development has allocated federal funding from the American Rescue Plan for the creation of the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program to help pay rent for persons and families who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.

The City of New Bedford has been awarded 59 EHV's through the New Bedford Housing Authority (NBHA) and the MA Department of Housing & Community Development (MA DHCD).

Who is eligible for an Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV)?

Individuals and families are eligible for the EHV's if they are:

- Homeless
- At-risk of homelessness
- Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking
- Recently homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability including clients in rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing programs

Families or individual EHV assistance will be denied if any individual/family member has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing or any family member is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state sex offender registration program.

How can I apply for an EHV?

Because there are only 59 total vouchers available through New Bedford, a closed referral system is being used and will be offered in "rounds." This means you *cannot* apply directly to the New Bedford Housing Authority (NBHA) for EHV assistance, vouchers will be awarded based on prioritization and there's a limited time during which you can apply.

Round #1: All applicants/interested New Bedford residents identifying as part of a BIPOC and/or LGBTQ+ community in existing Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), HomeBase or Rapid Rehousing (RRH) may apply in the first round directly through the New Bedford Coordinated Entry System (NB CES) at 508.999.4757 Monday-Friday from 8.30am - 5.00pm (except Veterans Day), November 8, 2021 - November 22nd. Applications (screenings) for the first round will only be accepted on these dates/times.

Only households who meet both eligibility criteria and additional prioritization criteria will be referred for an EHV; there are no exceptions to this; all referrals must go through the NB CES.

How will this process work?

Everything begins with your contact with the NB CES. Potentially eligible families and individuals must first complete an initial screening with a caseworker between **November 8th and November 22nd** and be referred either to the NBHA or, in the case of vouchers going through the state, the MA DHCD. All clients referred for this next step will need to complete an EHV application for further screening and to verify eligibility for the EHV program.

Once this step is completed, if the household is found to be eligible and prioritized for an EHV, and provided EHV's remain available, the household will have an opportunity to find and secure an apartment.

Subsequent funding rounds for other prioritized New Bedford households including those with a history of incarceration, those on the Coordinated Entry waiting list or otherwise qualified households, may be announced if/when vouchers are still available.

More questions?

There's more information about EHV's on the HUD website at: <https://www.hud.gov/EHV> or you can call NB CES at 508.999.4757 for assistance.