



Limited Waiting List Opening: Mainstream Vouchers

What You Need to Apply and Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Mainstream Voucher?

Mainstream Vouchers help non-elderly adults (18-61) living with disabilities pay their rent so they can live in the community, not in institutions.

Home Forward was recently awarded 99 of these vouchers by the federal government. Home Forward adopted a preference for our Housing Choice Voucher waitlist for individuals and families that include non-elderly adults with documented disabilities who are transitioning from an institutional living setting. We are opening our Housing Choice Voucher waiting list to accept applications ONLY from individuals and families eligible for this preference.

Am I eligible for a mainstream voucher under Home Forward's new waiting list preference?

You may be eligible if:

- You or someone in your household has a documented disability and
- The person with a disability is between the ages of 18 and 61 years and
- That person is transitioning out of an institutional or other segregated setting

One person in the applicant household must meet all three of the above criteria.

Examples of institutional or segregated settings may include, but are not limited to:

- A group home or adult foster care for individuals with disabilities
- A nursing facility, rehabilitation facility or other recuperative care facility
- An inpatient treatment facility for mental health, substance use disorders, or other disabilities

I think I'm eligible. How do I apply?

You'll need to complete all of the required forms when the waiting list is opened.

The waiting list will be opened **between Monday March 18th and Friday March 22nd**.

The forms can be found on the website. We will only be accepting applications and supporting documentation during the week the waiting list is open. However, applicants should begin collecting necessary documentation of eligibility prior to the opening so they are prepared to submit complete applications including all of the following when the waiting list is opened:



- Statement of Eligibility for Mainstream Voucher Preference**
- Waiting list application**
- Documentation of Age:** This can be:
 - Birth Certificate
 - Government Issued photo ID
- Documentation of Disability:** This can be:
 - Verification of Disability Form, **or**
 - Benefit letter from Social Security Administration dated within the past 60 days
- Documentation of Transition Plan** from an institution or other segregated setting (A full definition of institutional and segregated settings can be found in the Statement of Eligibility for Mainstream Voucher Preference)
- Home Forward Authorization for Release of Information Form**
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Release of Information**
- Optional: Mainstream Voucher and Coordinated Access for Adults and Families Release of Information:** This release will allow Home Forward to coordinate with partner agencies regarding your housing and other related services in order to support lease-up and ongoing housing success.
- Optional: Home Forward Advocacy Form:** If you work with a case manager, advocate, or other individual/agency and you would like us to speak with them regarding your eligibility for this preference or assistance through Home Forward, please complete and return this form.

How do I submit my application?

Submit the application and forms between 3/18 and 3/22 to Home Forward by mail, in person, or by fax:

Home Forward
Attn: Rent Assistance
135 SW Ash St.
Portland, OR 97204
503.802.8330

If application and supporting materials are mailed, they must be postmarked **by March 22nd, 2019.**

I'm not eligible, but I still need housing. What should I do?



Information about other Home Forward housing programs can be found here:
<http://homeforward.org/find-a-home/get-help-paying-rent>

Information about other housing assistance in the community can be found at 211info.org or by dialing 211 toll free.

If you are already on our waitlist for a Housing Choice voucher (Section 8) you don't need to do anything. You can get updates on your position on the waitlist by calling the Waitlist Position Hotline at (503) 415-8000.

When will the waitlist be open?

The waiting list will be opened between Monday March 18th and Friday March 22nd. We will only be accepting applications during the week the waiting list is open. Applicants should begin collecting necessary documentation of eligibility prior to the opening so they are prepared to submit complete applications with all required documentation. The application and other required documents are (HERE)

Is the application available in other languages?

Yes. The application and other required documents are available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian and English.

I need help with or have questions about my application.

Please contact us at 503.415.8050.

How many people will get vouchers?

Home Forward was awarded 99 Mainstream Vouchers. We are opening the waitlist only to eligible households so we can utilize these 99 vouchers.

How will Home Forward determine who will be added to the waiting list?

Home Forward will use a lottery to determine which applicants eligible for Home Forward's Mainstream Voucher preference will be added to the waiting list.

Is this a first come, first served process?

No, all eligible applications received during the waitlist opening dates will have an equal chance of being selected.

What is the process once my application has been submitted?



A lottery will determine which eligible applicants will be added to our waitlist and in which order. Applicants added to our waitlist will be pulled from our waitlist and screened for eligibility when Mainstream Vouchers are available based on their placement on our waiting list.

Will my chances be better if I apply more than once?

No, every household has the opportunity to apply only once. Duplicate applications will be removed from the lottery.

When will I find out if I was selected?

We estimate that all applicants will be notified in writing of their status by May 1st, but the timing of actual notifications will depend on the number of applications Home Forward receives.

If I am added to the waiting list, what happens next?

Applicants will be pulled from the waiting list when Mainstream Vouchers are available based on their placement on the waiting list. When an applicant is pulled from the waiting list, Home Forward will conduct a screening for eligibility for the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Once eligibility is confirmed, applicant households are invited to a briefing where they will receive information about the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Applicants receive their vouchers at the briefing, and are then responsible for identifying an eligible rental unit in Multnomah County where they can use the voucher.

How do I inform Home Forward if my address changes after I submit my application?

We need to be able to contact you to offer help. Always inform Home Forward of changes to your address or contact information in writing within ten calendar days of the change. Please send written notification of changes by U.S. mail or hand deliver to:

Home Forward
Attention: Rent Assistance
135 SW Ash St.
Portland, OR 97204

You can fax your changes to 503.802.8330 or email HCVwaitlist@homeforward.org.

Will households with undocumented family members be eligible?



Yes, as long as at least one family member has eligible residency or legal citizenship status.

Do I have to live in Multnomah County to apply?

No, any eligible household can apply. However, if you receive a mainstream voucher from Home Forward, you must use it in Multnomah County for the first 12 months.

What if I don't have a Social Security number because of my immigration status?

The application asks the head of household to enter a number. If the head of household doesn't have a Social Security number, you can leave it blank.

What if I don't have a phone number?

You can enter a temporary phone number or a friend or relative's phone number.