

News Update

Director's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the participants, owners and agents of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) for bearing with us during the month of June as staff relocated to the new CMHA Headquarters at 8120 Kinsman Road.

No matter how carefully an enterprise of this magnitude is planned (moving over 350 staff from five different locations), there are always some surprises. If any of the families we serve or the owners with whom we work have been inconvenienced during this time, we are sincerely sorry.

We believe that you will find our new offices inviting and a much more pleasant environment in which to conduct business. The entrance to the visitors' parking lot is on Kinsman Road, just east of the Administrative Building.

Please take some time to review the information in this issue of the HCVP Update. We are concen-



trating on Inspections information and Housing Quality Standards (HQS), this month, as well as information on the July Brown Bag workshop, which will also focus on Inspections. In addition, this issue provides the first formal announcement that the HCVP is opening its tenant-based waiting list with a lottery next month.

Please continue utilizing our Landlord and Applicant Participant Portals which can be reached through the CMHA website at www.cmha.net/ll-portal or www.cmha.net/apportal. And have a great summer!

Priscilla Pointer-Hicks

Registration still open for the July Brown Bag Workshop

The next HCVP Brown Bag Lunch Workshop, focusing on Inspections, will take place on Friday, July 15, 2011, at the North Olmsted branch of the Cuyahoga County Library, located at 27403 Lorain Rd. The workshop will begin at noon and continue until 2:00 p.m.



The new Inspections Management team will present information on recent guidance received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regarding HQS and conditions considered emergency violations, as well as HCVP enforcement of the Lead Law, compliance with local housing codes, rescheduling appointments, "not at home" failed inspections and the availability of weather deferrals/conditional approvals.

Don't miss this informative session. Please contact Samantha Stewart at (216) 271-2442 or stewarts@cmha.net to pre-register.

Attention HCVP Participants

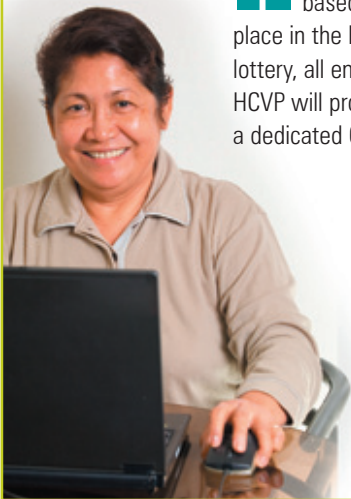
Landlords and Participants share the responsibility to make their rental units available for annual inspection. Participants are also responsible for repairing damages to the units that go beyond normal wear and tear. Failure to comply will put a participant's voucher at risk, so be prepared for your next annual inspection!

CMHA HCVP to Open Waiting List

This summer, for the first time, the CMHA HCVP will open the tenant-based waiting list with an **online** lottery. The last lottery, which took place in the Fall of 2006, required submission of a paper entry form. For this lottery, all entries must be submitted electronically through the internet. The HCVP will provide assistance for seniors and persons with disabilities through a dedicated Call Center.

Details with the website address, Call Center phone number and locations of public access computers will be published in local newspapers beginning August 1, 2011. In addition, posters with this information will be displayed at County offices and Libraries throughout Cuyahoga County.

Be sure to let friends, family and tenants without housing assistance know of this opportunity. Another lottery will not be planned for three — five years.



Expanded Inspections Standards Now Available at www.cmha.net

The CMHA HCVP Inspections Department has been working closely with the U.S. Department of HUD to clarify acceptability requirements for meeting Housing Quality Standards (HQS). Our collective goal is to ensure to the best of our ability that families assisted through the HCVP are living in a healthy, safe environment.

The acceptability requirements can now be found on the HCVP page of the CMHA website at www.cmha.net/hcvp/hqsinspectionchecklist.aspx. In addition, this page provides a link to the HUD Inspections Checklist used by CMHA Inspectors, as well as a detailed description of unit conditions, which when found during an inspection, will result in an emergency violation. Emergency violations must be corrected within 24 hours of the inspection, or the HCVP will be forced to abate the Housing Assistance Payment.

Landlords who have questions can submit them electronically through the Landlord Portal at www.cmha.net/llportal. CMHA staff will provide responses within 48 hours.



Use the HCVP Portals for the Information You Need

HCVP applicants and current participants and landlords are encouraged to register and use the HCVP on-line portals. They are the HCVP information resources, and the fastest, easiest way to obtain information and stay on top of compliance with Program rules!

The portals also give users the ability to update and manage the information the HCVP keeps on record and allow a simple way to get answers to individual questions within 48 hours.

REGISTER TODAY! FOR APPLICANTS AND PARTICIPANTS: WWW.CMHA.NET/APPORTAL. FOR LANDLORDS: WWW.CMHA.NET/LLPORTAL.

Calendar of Events

At 8120 Kinsman Road
Please arrive on time; late arrivals will not be accommodated

Mover's Session Schedule

(Bring current photo ID)
Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:00 to Noon and 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Saturdays Mover's Session: 10:00 to Noon
July 9th, August 13th, and September 10th

Landlord Briefings

(Required for new landlords before signing an HCVP contract; attendance is limited to 35 persons per Briefing)

Friday, July 8 th	3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 16 th	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.*
Friday, July 22 nd	Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 27 th	8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Friday, August 5 th	3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Monday, August 15 th	Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 20 th	10:00 – 11:30 p.m.*
Monday, August 29 th	8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Friday, September 2 nd	8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Monday, September 12 th	Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 17 th	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.*
Wednesday, September 28 th	3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

*Reservations are required for Saturday sessions only.
Call (216) 271-2442.

Landlord Briefings on the Road at Cuyahoga County Libraries:

Monday, July 18 th	Independence 6361 Selig Drive
Tuesday, August 2 nd	North Olmsted 27409 Lorain Road
Tuesday, September 7 th	Parma Heights 6206 Pearl Road

All off-site Landlord Briefing sessions are from noon to 1:30 p.m. No reservations are required.

Contract Signing Sessions:

After accepting the final rent offer, the Contract Specialist will advise a landlord of the date, time and location to sign the contract. (Please bring a current photo ID and two copies of the signed lease agreement).



Board of Commissioners: Ronald V. Johnson Jr., Chairman; Doris V. Jones, Vice-Chairperson; Robert E. Davis, Ronnie A. Dunn, Ph.D., Natoya Walker Minor
Acting Chief Executive Officer: Jeffery K. Patterson;
HCVP Director: Priscilla Pointer-Hicks
Housing Choice Voucher Program: (216) 431-1471
www.cmha.net

CMHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program provides reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities so they may participate in our programs, services and activities. If you need an accommodation, including auxiliary aids and/or services, please contact Customer Service at (216) 431-1471 (voice) or 1-800-750-0750 (Ohio Relay Service).