

Fact Sheet: Constant Cuts to Section 8 and the Local Impacts

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program is the nation's primary housing program for very low and extremely low income families, the elderly, the disabled, and those at risk of homelessness. It has been proven that the most important source for housing for previously homeless or very-low-income household is rental assistance, such as a Section 8 voucher, which is connected with the unit.

The Need for Section 8 Vouchers in the City of Los Angeles:

In the City of Los Angeles over 42,000 households depend on Section 8 vouchers, and hundreds of thousands more need Section this help¹:

- Over 93,000 families are on the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) waiting list for Section 8 vouchers.²
- There almost 326,000 very low and extremely low income households³ and over 48,000 homeless men, women and children in the City of Los Angeles who need Section 8 or some other form of housing subsidy. ⁴
- Meanwhile, Rents continue to skyrocket, increasing the need for Section 8 housing. The average rent for a 2 bedroom apartment the City of Los Angeles is about \$1,350/month.⁶ With the California minimum wage at \$6.75 per hour, two minimum wage workers supporting a family would each have to work nearly 78 hours per week to afford this rent.⁷

Constant Threats to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program:

In recent years, Congress has consistently cut funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and adjusted the rules for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program resulting in local housing authorities helping fewer needy households.

- In April, 2004 HACLA was forced to cancel the vouchers of 1,500 families because they issued more vouchers than could fund.⁵The Housing Authority is still in the process of returning the vouchers that were suspended in 2004, and will not begin taking names from the waiting list, much less accepting applications, until this process is completed.⁶
- Due to federal funding cuts, HACLA has reduced its payment standards (the amount of subsidy paid toward monthly rent) 90% of the Fair Market Rent, resulting in tenants paying higher - often unaffordable - rents.

Today, **the** Bush Administration's fiscal year 2007 Budget Proposal continues to tie a housing authority's voucher funding to old unreliable data, guaranteeing a loss of voucher units for many housing authorities. The Administration also continues to support the proposed State and Local Housing Flexibility Act, which threatens the Housing Choice Voucher Program in many ways including reversing the primary purpose of the program - to house the lowest income households.

We cannot allow this vital program to continue to be scaled back and put in jeopardy! You can help: Join the Save Section 8 Coalition today! For more information contact Elizabeth Wright: 213-43901070 x111 or elizabeth@lacehh.org.

¹ Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, Section 8

² Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles Year 2004 Agency Plan

³ U.S. Census 2000

⁴ Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority 2005 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

⁵ Making It in L.A. Housing: Families at Various Levels Feel the Pinch <http://www.scf.usc.edu/~jour556/housing.shtml>

⁶ Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, Section 8