



Homeless Preference

If you meet a very strict definition of “homeless” that both HUD and HACM use, you may be eligible for a preference on certain housing waitlists (Housing Choice Voucher or Public Housing) based on your homeless status. This preference does not apply to project-based voucher waiting lists.

HUD and HACM define “homeless” for this preference very strictly by only counting two types of homelessness for this preference (known as Category 1 and Category 4). We have included the full official definition further below.

After you complete your registration for waitlists via the button below or at <https://myportal.hacm.org>, you can verify that you meet the strict definition of homeless status for HACM as follows:

1. The **Category 1 definition of “homeless” includes staying in an emergency shelter or place that is not meant for human habitation (such as living in a car; in a park; in an abandoned building; etc.).** If you meet this definition, you may be eligible for a preference on the waitlist for a rent assistance voucher or public housing. However, first HACM needs verification that you meet this eligibility of “homeless”. Please note that this definition does not include other living situations, such as staying with friends or family.

If you believe you meet this strict definition (living in shelter or other place not meant for human habitation), please call an IMPACT Community Resource Specialist at (414) 455-1737 Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM CDT. The Specialist will ask you a number of questions and will obtain documentation to verify whether you meet this strict definition of “homeless”. If IMPACT verifies that you are eligible for the “homeless” preference, they will notify the Housing Authority to confirm that you meet the eligibility. HACM will then contact you for additional information regarding your application.

2. The **Category 4 definition of “homeless” is related to individuals who are fleeing or attempting to flee a domestic violence situation and who are homeless due to an unsafe primary residence and lack other housing resources through friends, families or others.** If you believe this is the situation, please call HACM’s Program Integrity Manager at (414) 286-5636 who will work with you to verify this eligibility.

If you do not meet either of these definitions of “homeless”, please do not worry. Once you are registered for waitlists, your registration on the HACM waiting lists will remain. If you are selected for the Housing Choice Voucher lottery or at the time you are selected for a Public Housing waitlist, you will be notified by HACM with further instructions. Please remember to keep your contact information up-to-date on your application and remember that you can access it online at <https://myportal.hacm.org>

Full Definition of Homeless:

Please note that the complete HUD definition of “homeless” for this preference includes Category 1 and 4 as follows:

Category 1: An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- a. An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground; or
- b. An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low- income individuals); or
- c. An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;

Category 4: Any individual or family who:

- a. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual’s or family’s primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence; and
- b. Has no other residence; and
- c. Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and faith- based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing