



HAP CHECK NEWS

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH OWNER NEWSLETTER

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Keeping You Informed— Our Other Assistance Programs

In addition to administering the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the Housing Authority also operates several other HUD funded rental assistance programs. These include Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Shelter Plus Care (SPC) and Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH). Below is a brief explanation of each one.

The **HOPWA** Program, was established by HUD to address the specific needs of low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

The Housing Authority currently receives HOPWA funds to operate two housing programs. The first one is the HOPWA Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program. This is modeled after HUD's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and follows the same rules. The second program is the HOPWA Short-Term Assistance Program, which provides periodic grants to help very low-income tenants catch-up with rent and utility payments and pay moving expenses.

Shelter Plus Care is a program designed to provide housing and supportive services on a long-term basis for homeless persons with disabilities and their families who are living in places not intended for human habitation (e.g., streets) or in emergency shelters. SPC includes those with disabilities with serious mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol and/or drugs, and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or related diseases. The Program not only allows for a variety of housing choices, but also provides a range of supportive services funded by other sources outside the Program, including local mental health organizations and the US Veterans Initiative.

The 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act enacted December 26, 2007, provided \$75 million dollars of funding for the **VASH** Program as authorized under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

The HUD–VASH Program combines HUD housing choice rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and (over)

clinical services provided by the Veterans Affairs at its medical centers and in the community. Generally, the HUD-VASH HCV program will be administered in accordance with regular HCV program requirements. However, the Act allows HUD to waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation that HUD administers in connection with this program in order to effectively deliver and administer HUD-VASH voucher assistance.

The HACLB is partnering with the Long Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center to administer the VASH Program.

Additional information on these rental assistance programs will be available on our web site in the coming months.

Did You Know?

- Over the course of a year, the Housing Authority conducts almost 11,000 inspections for the various housing assistance programs it operates.
- The Housing Choice Voucher Program is HUD's largest program - currently, 2 million families receive voucher assistance to rent decent, safe, and sanitary housing on the privately owned rental market through a national network of 2,400 public housing agencies. With annual funding of \$17 billion, the voucher program accounts for over half of HUD's entire budget.
- From October 2007-June 2008, the Housing Authority provided over \$44.2 million in rental assistance to families on the various housing assistance programs.

Don't Forget:

Direct Deposit of Housing Assistance Payments

Over 2400 owners have already signed up. Have you? Sign up for direct deposit now. Call Royce Bell at 562-570-6348 or send her an email Royce_bell@longbeach.gov

Email Notifications of Direct Deposit

Sign up for email notification of your direct deposit. Please send an email to HADirectDeposit@longbeach.gov with the following information:

- Your full name
- Your current address
- Last 4 digits of your social security number
- Email address or addresses to send the notification to you