

Transferring from Another County *Frequently Asked Questions*

One of the features of the Section 8 Housing Voucher program is the freedom to move with continued rental assistance to another area in the United States, provided a public housing agency (PHA) administering the program has jurisdiction over the area in which the unit is located. The term “*portability*” refers to the process of transferring your Section 8 tenant-based assistance (SC8) outside the jurisdiction of the *initial* PHA (the PHA that issued the voucher).

If you are a SC8 participant and are considering moving to the San Mateo County, using your SC8 voucher, please read the frequently asked questions below:

1. Does the Housing Authority of the County of San Mateo (HACSM) accept Section 8 participants from other jurisdictions?

~ Yes, we do accept Section 8 participants under portability.

2. Is the HACSM absorbing portables?

~ No, we are **not** absorbing portables. We will **bill** the initial Housing Authority.

3. If the HACSM is not absorbing portables, can I still transfer my SC8 voucher to San Mateo County?

~Yes. Inform your current housing caseworker that we bill all incoming transfers (portables). You can transfer to the HACSM only if the initial Housing Authority approves the transfer. San Mateo County is a very high rent area, which means that the rent subsidy amount will also be high. Because we will bill the initial Housing Authority, they may not have adequate funding to approve your transfer request.

4. What are the HACSM Payment Standards?

~ The HACSM **does not** use Payment Standards to calculate the amount of rent subsidy. As a Moving-To-Work agency, our office has adopted a different rent calculation methodology where we apply a fixed subsidy amount base on the participant's annual adjusted income. Your subsidy is determined by the HACSM's subsidy table which is calculated based on your annual adjusted income and the lesser of the unit size on your voucher or the unit size you are renting. There is a minimum tenant rent of \$50.00.

HACSM received approval from HUD for this variance through its 2009 MTW Annual Plan.

5. How does the HACSM determine voucher size?

~ We have strict voucher subsidy standards. We issue voucher bedroom size based on the following guidelines:

- Head of Household, spouse, co-head or partner qualify for 1 bedroom subsidy;
- Every two (2) persons thereafter, regardless of sex, age or relationship qualify for 1 additional bedroom subsidy.

6. If I have a voucher that is more generous than the above standards, what will happen to my voucher size if I move to the HACSM?

~The receiving PHA (HACSM) will adjust your voucher size to comply with the HACSM policy using the guidelines listed above.

7. What should I do if I have been approved to transfer to the HACSM?

~Ask your current caseworker to mail your transfer packet to the **Housing Authority of the County of San Mateo at 264 Harbor Blvd., Bldg. A, Belmont, CA 94002**. The transfer packet should include required HUD documents and your current phone number and mailing address. An intake appointment letter will be mailed to you once the packet is received. The caseworker may fax your transfer packet to the HACSM office at (650) 802-3319.

Important Note: San Mateo County will process transfer packets as prepared by the initial Housing Authority. Any income or family composition changes that occur during the transfer and lease-up period must be reported and processed by the initial Housing Authority.

For more information about portability, please call (650) 802-3300.