

What are the preferences for the Housing Choice Voucher Program?

The Fresno Housing Authority (FH) may establish local preferences based upon housing needs and priorities as determined by the Fresno Housing Authority. These local preferences will be based on accepted data sources, after providing an opportunity for public comment, and will consider the public comments received.

Assistance is based on income verification, eligibility requirements, FH preference categories and selection method. Before the family is provided assistance, the family's eligibility for the preference is based on the current circumstances and will be verified.

If upon verification, FH determines that the family does not qualify for the preference(s) claimed their pre-application will be removed from the waiting list and canceled.

FH has established local preferences which will be given a cumulative point value to give priority to serving families that meet the preference criteria. Applicants with equal preference points will be randomized amongst other pre-applications with equal points.

1. Residency Preference (15 Points)

This local preference would continue to give a preference for applicants who reside and/or work in the City and County of Fresno.

- The family must live, or at least one member must have a job, within the limits of Fresno County.
- Applicants who have been notified that they are hired to work in Fresno County must be treated as a resident.
- A resident is also defined to mean at least one family member of the applicant household is currently enrolled in a Fresno County institution of higher education.

HUD regulations state that a residency preference must not be based on how long an applicant has resided or worked in a residency preference area.

2. United States Veteran's Preference (10 Points)

This preference applies to active U.S. Armed Forces, veterans and their surviving spouses.

3. Elderly or Disabled Person Preference (10 Points)

An elderly preference applies if the head, spouse or co-head is a person who is age 62 or older.

A disabled person preference applies if the head, spouse or co-head are one or more of the following:

- Receives Social Security or Supplemental Security benefits or otherwise meets the definition of disabled as defined under Section 223 of the Social Security Act as follows:
 - Inability to engage in any substantial, gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months; or
 - In case of an individual who has attained the age of 55 and is blind inability by reason of such blindness to engage in substantial gainful activity in which he has previously engaged with some regularity and over a substantial period of time.
- Has a physical, mental or emotional handicap which:
 - Is expected to be of long and indefinite duration
 - Substantially impeded his/her ability to live independently; and
 - Is of such a nature that the person's ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing
- Has a developmental disability as defined in Section 102(7) of the Developmental Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. Developmental disability is defined as a severe, chronic disability which:
 - Is attributable to a mental and/or physical impairment; Was manifested before the age of 22;
 - Is likely to continue indefinitely;
 - Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas: capacity for independent living; self-care; receptive and expressive language; learning; mobility; self-direction; and economic self-sufficiency; AND
 - Requires special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

A person may receive no more than 10 total points for the Elderly or Disabled preference category.