



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

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Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: What does it mean that the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program is “ending”?

A: The EHV program was created in 2021 to assist people experiencing homelessness; at risk of homelessness; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or who recently experienced homelessness and for whom rental assistance will help prevent their homelessness or a high risk of housing instability. Federal funding for the EHV program was expected to continue through 2030. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the funding is ending five years sooner than expected as funding had been depleted faster than projected. Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara (HACSB) does not have replacement funds or vouchers to continue to provide rental assistance to EHV families after HUD permanently stops funding the program.

HACSB estimates that its EHV funding will cover the average EHV housing assistance payment through September of 2026. HACSB will **not** be able to continue to pay subsidy on behalf of EHV households. EHV households will be responsible for their full contract rent amount.

Q2: When will my EHV assistance end?

A: HACSB estimates that its remaining HUD funding for EHV's will end on September 30, 2026.

Q3: Can I appeal the ending of my EHV or request an extension?

A: No, this is not an individual decision made about a specific family. The program is ending because HUD is no longer providing funding.

Q4: Can I be transferred to another housing program, like HCV or PBV?

A: HACSB does not have additional funding, other vouchers, or programs to transfer your assistance.

HACSB's HCV waiting list may soon include a preference for EHV families. This means you will be prioritized over others on the waiting list. This preference is only available to HACSB's existing, assisted EHV participants. However, HACSB is currently in shortfall status, meaning we are not issuing any Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV). You would be able to remain on the waitlist until HCVs are available.

Q5: How do I apply to HACSB's waiting lists?

A: To transition EHV participants to an HCV/PBV, the household must be selected through HACSB's waiting list. As an alternative to accepting individual applications from current EHV participants, HACSB will submit a HUD regulatory waiver that, if approved, would permit HACSB to place all EHV participants on its HCV waiting list with the appropriate preference(s). Once HACSB receives written approval from HUD, all EHV households will be notified and asked to complete a form confirming their interest in being added to the HCV waiting list and to verify any applicable preferences. However, regardless of status on the HACSB wait list, the EHV rental payments will cease with the end of the EHV program.

Q6: Who should I contact if I have questions about my lease responsibilities after the EHV program ends?

A: If you have questions about your lease responsibilities after the EHV program ends, you should:

1. Contact your landlord to talk about your current lease terms and explore options.
2. Reach out to Santa Barbara Legal Aid Foundation – 301 E. Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 – (805) 963-6754 for your rights and responsibilities as a tenant. They can help you understand your lease obligations and provide support to best address any remaining lease requirements or tenant protection regulations.

Q7: Will I have to move from my home after the EHV rental assistance ends?

A: Not necessarily. If you can afford the full contract rent for your home after the EHV rental assistance ends, you can continue to reside in your current home without rental assistance.

HACSB also recommends beginning to plan your housing options. This may include contacting your landlord to talk about options for you to take over the full rent responsibilities when the EHV program ends. Contact 211 or HACSB if you need assistance

identifying other resources. Early preparation will help ensure a smoother transition when the EHV program ends.

Q8: Will I need to repay the security deposit grant or housing placement items received through EHV?

A: No, you do not need to repay any financial assistance that was provided to you when you started in the EHV program. These include security deposit grants, utility deposits, holding fees, and similar costs that were funded through a grant to help you lease your home. If any portion of assistance is refunded to you, you may use those funds toward a deposit for your next home—if you choose to move.

Q9: What if I have reasonable accommodation in place?

A: If you have a Reasonable Accommodation (RA) tied to the EHV program, your RA will end with the program. Your RA will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis if you become a participant of another housing program.

Q10: Can I move before the EHV funding expires?

A: Yes, you may move without any assistance. HACSB will no longer enter into a new Housing Assistance Payment contract under the EHV program.

Q11: Will I receive any financial assistance to relocate to a new home?

A: No. However, please also see the answer to Question 8.

Q12: Will I still need to recertify if the program is ending?

A: As long as you receive rental assistance from HACSB, you are required to continue to comply with all program requirements. This includes following program rules, fulfilling your responsibilities, and completing the recertification process, as required, until your participation in the EHV program ends.

Please ensure you continue to comply with these requirements.

Q13: Can I still report a reduction of income or make changes to my household composition during the remaining months of the program?

A: Yes, while you are currently receiving rental assistance, you must continue to comply with all program requirements until your participation in the program ends. This includes following program rules, fulfilling your responsibilities, and completing the certification process as required. Please ensure you continue to comply with these requirements. After you receive the final notice of the rental assistance payment and program participation from HACSB, you will no longer be required to complete certifications with HACSB.

Q14: What can I do to prepare?

A: HACSB's priority is to ensure that you remain connected to resources that can support your transition out of the EHV program after your rental assistance ends. We encourage you to have open communication with your landlord and connect with community resources listed below to explore your options:

- ▶ 2-1-1 Connecting Point
- ▶ Legal Aid Foundation – (805) 963-6754 - 301 E. Canon Perdido, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
- ▶ Santa Barbara County Housing Resource Guide - <https://housingsantabarbara.org/resource-guide>

Q15: Who should I contact if I have questions or need additional help?

A: You can contact HACSB at (805) 965-1071 or e-mail info@hacsb.org with questions.