

SECTION 8 CHOICE VOUCHER **massachusetts** **CENTRALIZED WAITING LIST**

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for the Massachusetts Centralized Section 8 waiting list?

Please complete a Preliminary Application by contacting or visiting a participating housing authority to obtain an application or download and print a Preliminary Application off www.section8listmass.org. You can also apply online by visiting www.section8listmass.org and registering a username and password. You only need to complete ONE preliminary Application to be considered by ALL participating housing authorities.

How do I find out where I am on the list?

Complete a Request for Status form found on www.section8listmass.org or send in a request in writing and send it to a participating housing authority near you. You can also check your status online at www.section8listmass.org by registering a username and password.

Why don't I get my 'number' on the waiting list?

This is one waiting list that is sorted differently by each participating housing authority. Many housing authorities have a set of preferences to rank applicants; these preferences are based on the needs in the community. On the other hand, some housing authorities sort the list only by date and time of application. Because the list is sorted differently by each participating housing authority, your "number on the list" is different at each housing authority. Instead of providing you with a number, it is more realistic for a housing authority to confirm that you are active on the list and possibly give you an estimate of the wait time based on its average agency turnover. It is important to keep your information current with the housing authority and you will be notified by mail when you reach the top of the list.

How do I report a change of address?

Complete a Change of Address form found on www.section8listmass.org or write a letter stating your change of address and return it to a participating housing authority near you. Please be sure to include your old address, new address, your name and social security number. All participating housing authorities are able to look up and update any applicant's record, regardless of where the application was first entered into the system. You can also change your address and update any other information on your Preliminary Application online at www.section8listmass.org by registering a username and password.

Please note that changing your address with the U.S. Post Office will not change your address on the Massachusetts Section 8 Centralized waiting list.

I applied to several housing authorities' Section 8 waiting lists in the past. Will I be removed from those lists if I apply to the Massachusetts Centralized Waiting List?

No. If your name is already on an existing list at one or more housing authorities, it will not be removed

UNLESS:

- you voluntarily ask to be removed.
- you do not respond to a mailing from the housing authority.

Once I am selected by a housing authority and receive a voucher, do I have to use my voucher in that housing authority's town?

No. If you receive a voucher in Massachusetts you can use it anywhere.

How often is the waiting list updated?

You will receive an update mailing if you have not updated your application within **two years**. The purpose is to update applicant contact information and to remove those who are no longer interested.

My pre-application is inactive on the waiting list, can I appeal my removal?

If your application was removed in error you can send in a written appeal to the participating housing authority that removed your application. You must include proof of the error and a description of why your preliminary application should be reinstated. If you failed to respond to a request or mail from the housing authority or the Update Mailing you must re-apply¹.

My pre-application is inactive for not responding to the Update Mailing, can I appeal my removal?

After applicants that did not respond to an Update Mailing are made Inactive on the waiting list, they are given 6 months to mail in a written appeal Request for Reinstatement Form. After the 6 month reinstatement request period ends, applicants must reapply to be placed back on the waiting list¹. After the reinstatement period, if an applicant was removed in error due to the Update Mailing, the applicant must submit a written appeal and mail it to Mass. Centralized Waiting List, Attn: Appeals, P.O. Box 8727, Boston, MA 02114. All requests must be made in writing and **include** supporting documentation. **No phone call, email or in person requests are accepted.**

¹Please note that, upon request, reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities.