



Counting Federal Rental Assistance Vouchers Toward Affordable Housing Goal

Overview of Proposed Process for Agencies Administering Homeless Vouchers



Background

- Under Rhode Island's Low and Moderate Income Housing Act, municipalities are incentivized to achieve the goal of having 10% of their year-round housing qualify as low- or moderate-income housing (LMIH).
- Generally housing must meet the following criteria to count as LMIH:
 - Subsidized by a federal, state or municipal government
 - Income restricted to 80%AMI for renters or 120% AMI for homeowners
 - Deed restricted for at least 30 years
- Legislation passed in 2024 expanded that definition to include federal rental assistance vouchers beginning with the 2024 LMIH Chart.



Proposed Process for Counting Rental Assistance Vouchers

- Goal: Establish a process that is as easy as possible to implement, accurately captures active federally subsidized rental assistance vouchers, and avoids duplication.
- Step 1: Establish what vouchers to count and when.
- Step 2: Establish which entity captures the information
- Step 3: Establish a consistent format for capturing the information
- Step 4: Establish the process for reporting the information and ensuring that there is no duplication of unit counts.



Step 1: What vouchers to count and when to count them

- Pull data on December 31, 2024 and annually thereafter.
- Only vouchers with a signed lease agreement that are occupied by a voucher recipient on 12/31/24 should be counted.
- Eligible vouchers:
 - COC Rental Assistance – Permanent Supportive Housing
 - COC Rental Assistance – Rapid Rehousing
 - COC Leasing Assistance – Permanent Supportive Housing
 - COC Leasing Assistance – Rapid Rehousing
 - ESG Rental Assistance – Rapid Rehousing
 - Housing Choice Voucher Program tenant (HCVP)*
 - Project based vouchers (HCVP-PB)*
 - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers*
 - Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers*
 - Foster Youth Initiative (FYI) vouchers*

** Being captured through a similar but separate process*



Step 2: What each Entity is reporting

- Continuum of Care (COC) funded vouchers: Award recipient reports required information.
- Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funded vouchers: Recipients (entitlement communities) or their subrecipients report required information.
- Other federally funded rental assistance programs for homeless populations (*with the exception of rental assistance administered by PHAs which is addressed separately*): The recipient should report required information.
- Vouchers must have a signed lease agreement for a unit that is occupied by a voucher recipient on 12/31/24 to be counted



Step 3: Format for capturing information

- RIHousing has created a template form to capture information on vouchers in a consistent format
 - Information on submitting entity
 - Information on the number and type of voucher
 - Information on the number of vouchers being utilized in existing LMIH developments if applicable

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Submitting Entity: | | | |
| Municipality: | | | |
| Contact Name/ Phone number/ email address: | | | |
| Conducting cross-check against existing LMIH units: | RIHousing | | Submitting Entity |
| Active Federally Financed Vouchers | | | |
| Program | # Vouchers in active use on 12-31-24 | | |
| COC Rental Assistance – Permanent Supportive Housing | | | |
| COC Rental Assistance – Rapid Rehousing | | | |
| COC Leasing Assistance – Permanent Supportive Housing | | | |
| COC Leasing Assistance – Rapid Rehousing | | | |
| ESG Rental Assistance – Rapid Rehousing | | | |
| Other: (specify) | | | |
| Other: (specify) | | | |
| Other: (specify) | | | |
| TOTAL: | | | |
| Active vouchers in existing LMIH units | | | |
| Voucher Program | Development | Development Physical Address | # of Vouchers Leased Here |
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| | | | |
| TOTAL: | | | |
| Unduplicated active vouchers: | | | |

Step 4: Reporting and De-Duplication

De-Duplication: Removing vouchers that are being used in a unit that is already being counted as LMIH housing. The reporting entity may cross-check for areas of duplication or RIHousing can cross-check for them.

| Entity Conducting Cross-Check | RIHousing Conducting Cross-Check |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RIHousing notifies voucher administrators that the draft LMIH charts for each municipality with addresses is available on its website• Reporting entity cross-checks those addresses against the addresses of their active, eligible vouchers• Reporting entity provides information on the number of vouchers leased up in LMIH units in the template form | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reporting entity provides RIHousing with the addresses for their active eligible vouchers• RIHousing cross-checks those addresses against the addresses of LMIH units in the relevant municipalities• RIHousing reports to the reporting entity the number of vouchers leased up in LMIH units prior to the completion of the LMIH chart |

Note: Addresses of voucher holders will not be made public, however we recommend entities serving victims of domestic violence conduct cross-check themselves given the sensitive nature of this information.



Step 4: Reporting and De-Duplication

Reporting Process

December 31,
2024

Reporting
entities pull
information on
eligible vouchers

Q1 2024

RIHousing notifies
municipalities,
PHAS, monitoring
agents and other
voucher
administrators that
the draft LMIH charts
for each municipality
with addresses is
available on its
website.

Reporting entities
have 30 days to
provide information
on eligible vouchers
and areas of
duplication with
LMIH units (if they
are conducting the
cross-check)

RIHousing conducts
cross-check for
duplications for entities
that have requested it
and reports results to
those entities. After 30-
day comment period is
over, RIHousing
updates the LMIH
count based on input
received and finalizes
the chart.



Questions?



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