

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE WAITING LIST

What information do I need to apply for Section 8?

You will need to provide the names, dates of birth and Social Security numbers of all of the people who will live with you when you are on the program. The application will also ask questions about your current address, sources of income and our local preferences, including Torrance residency and the military preference.

Do I have to be a U. S. citizen in order to apply for Section 8?

You do not have to be a U. S. citizen, but you must be legally in the United States in order to qualify for assistance. If your family has both legal and non-legal members, the assistance will be pro-rated based on the percentage of members who are legal residents. If no one in the family is legally in the United States, we cannot accept an application.

Can I apply by mail?

After the Waiting List opens on September 16, 2009, applications will be accepted by mail. Applications sent by mail must be post marked between September 16, 2009 and October 16, 2009. Applications with a post mark after October 16, 2009 will not be accepted. The Housing Office is not responsible for errors made by the Post Office. **Only original applications will be accepted. Photocopied applications will be returned to the sender.**

What happens to my application after it is returned to the Housing Office?

All of the information on the applications must be entered into a computer data base. Your place on the Waiting List will be determined by the number of preferences you claim. Within each category, applicants are ranked by the date and time of the original application. Once your information is in the system, you will be sent a confirmation letter giving you the category and contact information on your application. You should check to ensure the information is correct and contact us if you find any errors. **Because of the large number of applications received, it may take several months to prepare the letters.**

How long will it take to reach my name on the Waiting List?

We cannot predict how long it will take to reach your name. The number of people on the list, funding levels for the program and changes in the status of other applicants all affect how quickly we process applications.

What happens when you reach my name on the list?

When we come to your name, you will be sent a notice by mail. The notice will include paperwork asking questions about your household composition, income and assets. If your family appears to be eligible for assistance based on this information, you will be assigned to a caseworker. At that time you will be required to provide written verification of all of the information contained on your application and other paperwork. **ALL CONTACT IS BY MAIL. IF WE SEND YOU ANY CORRESPONDENCE AND IT IS RETURNED WITH NO FORWARDING ADDRESS, YOUR NAME WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE LIST. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE US WITH AN ADDRESS WHERE YOU CAN RECEIVE MAIL.**

What should I do if my information changes before you reach my name on the list?

If you have any changes in your situation, including your address, family composition or information that affects your placement on the list, you should come to the Housing Office and complete an Update form. If the updated information changes your category, you will receive written confirmation of the change. **Because of the large number of applications, applicants will not be able to change or update information until a confirmation letter is sent by this office.**