

**AMARILLO HOUSING AUTHORITY  
HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM  
WAITLIST LOTTERY ENROLLMENT BEGINS  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6<sup>th</sup>**

The Amarillo Housing Authority (AHA) will open the pre-application enrollment for its Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) Waitlist Lottery on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 9 a.m. CST.

The HCV Program (previously known as Section 8) provides rental assistance for low-income individuals and families. All applicants will have an equal opportunity for selection in compliance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations. Selection will also reflect the application of local preferences as outlined in the AHA Administrative Plan.

**How To Apply**

The open enrollment period begins Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m. CST. Pre-applications for HCV will be accepted ONLINE ONLY at:

<https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/hcvcityofamarillotx/Participant>

The AHA will maintain an open waitlist, allowing individuals and families to complete a pre-application at any time following the opening of the pre-enrollment period.

- Only one pre-application per household will be accepted.
- Paper applications will not be distributed or accepted.
- Submission of a pre-application does not guarantee placement.

Households needing assistance with the online pre-application process may contact Community Development at 806-378-3098 or attend a help session at the Community Development office located at 808 South Buchanan Street. Help sessions will be offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 10 am and 1 pm.

Individuals must login to their application portal to check their waitlist status. Qualified applicants not selected following the initial lottery and pull from the waitlist will remain on the waitlist. Applicants who are denied due to ineligibility may resubmit a pre-application if the household status changes.

**Lottery Selection**

Applications chosen during each lottery will be randomly assigned applicant ID numbers and ranked using local preferences. In accordance with HUD guidelines, all housing authorities have the discretion to apply a preference to a particular population of vulnerable people in a community. Individuals and/or families that qualify for one of these preferences receive extra points to move higher on the wait list. A person who applies and

qualifies for assistance begins with 0 points. Additional points are assessed using the preferences below.

1. **(100 points) Insufficient Funding** – If an HCV family has been terminated from the program due to insufficient funding within the AHA organization.
2. **(100 points) Texas Panhandle Disaster** – Individuals or families who are verified victims of a FEMA declared disaster within the following Texas counties: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, and Wheeler.
3. **(50 points) Residency** – Applicants who live, work, or attend school within the city of Amarillo.
4. **(40 points) Homeless and At-Risk of Homelessness Assistance Service Referral** – The AHA will provide this preference to individuals/families that are referred from Partner Service Provider Agencies. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be in place with qualified agencies. AHA will provide up to 5 vouchers per month for each partner agency/program. (Includes referrals from ESG/TBRA)
5. **(10 points) VAWA** – Persons who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, in accordance with VAWA.
6. **(5 points) Elderly/Disabled** - An elderly household is defined as a household where the head, spouse, or co-head is age 62 or older. A disabled household is defined as a household where the head, spouse, or co-head has a disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 423.
7. **(5 points) Family with minor child** – Families will receive this preference if they have legal custody or guardianship of at least one child under the age of 18 living in the household.
8. **(5 points) Working Families** – This preference is for "working" families, where the head, spouse, cohead, or sole member is employed and has worked an average of 20 hours per week for the past 6 months.
9. **(5 points) Educational Advancement** – Households in which the head of household, spouse, or sole member is actively enrolled full-time in an accredited vocational training program, trade school, college, or university and meets the applicable HUD eligibility requirements for students.

These are local preferences and applicants will be required to provide documentation for any preference applied.

### **Accommodations**

Individuals with a disability can request a reasonable accommodation to participate. To request a reasonable accommodation or for more information, please contact the City of Amarillo Community Development Department at (806) 378-3098.