

PORTABILITY

One of the great features of the tenant-based assistance program is that your assistance “moves” with you. You can use your assistance to move not only across town but also to move anywhere in the United States within the jurisdiction of a Public Housing Authority with a tenant-based assistance program. The HUD term for the ability to move outside the PHA jurisdiction with rental assistance is “portability.”

The PHA may limit moves under portability, so contact your Program Representative if you wish to exercise portability. You will be advised of any restrictions and procedures that may apply to you.

Facts About Portability You Should Know:

1. The Public Housing Authority where you want to move may have different rules, policies and deadlines.
2. There may be a different payment standard.
3. The new Public Housing Authority will probably have different utility allowances that will affect the amount you pay for rent.
4. A different size voucher may be issued to you.
5. When you are first issued a voucher, you are always subject to the income limits of the Public Housing Authority where you want to live.

HOW TO START THE PORTABILITY PROCESS

To start the portability process you, as the participant, will have to make the first steps. What you need to do is listed below:

1. Contact the Housing Authority you wish to port to. Let them know you are a potential port applicant.
2. Find out if that Housing Authority is billing or absorbing.
3. Find out what the Housing Authority’s payment standard is.
4. Report back to your case worker the information you received from the other Housing Authority and they will determine if your portability request is approved.

Things to keep in mind when going portable:

- If the Housing Authority you are looking to port to is **ABSORBING**, there should be no issue with porting you to that Housing Authority.
- If the Housing Authority you are looking to port to is **BILLING** and has a payment standard that is at or **BELOW** H.A.W.C.'s payment standard, there should be no issues with porting you to that Housing Authority.
- If the Housing Authority you are looking to port to is **BILLING** and has a payment standard that is **ABOVE** H.A.W.C.'s payment standard, there is a possibility we would not be able to send you portable.