



Oakland Housing Authority

Change to the OHA Portability Policy

The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) has recently made changes to its Portability Policy. Portability is the process by which an eligible family obtains a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher from one Public Housing Authority's jurisdiction, and uses it to lease a unit in the jurisdiction of another Public Housing Authority. The objective of the Housing Choice Voucher program is to provide increased housing options for families, and OHA's goal is to increase the affordable housing options within Oakland. If families port out of Oakland to neighboring cities and are not absorbed into the receiving jurisdiction's program, OHA is required to continue to pay the (oftentimes higher) subsidy for the unit. This effectively denies a voucher to an Oakland family on our wait list. By limiting the number of households moving locally, OHA can use its subsidy dollars to assist families who live within our jurisdiction, the City of Oakland.

(This policy change does not affect families that elect to move to jurisdictions outside of the nine Bay Area counties identified, and it contains provisions (listed below) that will still allow some families to move into neighboring jurisdictions.)

Effective July 1, 2015, the Oakland Housing Authority will no longer process outgoing portability to Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Solano Counties.

A list of all cities within these counties is available on our website www.oakha.org.

OHA does anticipate that some households may need to move out of Oakland due to special circumstances. There are exceptions to this policy, which include:

- Reasonable accommodation for persons with a disability.
- Verifiable employment opportunity more than 35 miles from the City of Oakland limits and at least 20 hours per week paid at minimum wage or above.
- Situations covered under the 2013 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
- Education for the head of household, co-head, and/or spouse only (Must show proof of full-time enrollment at a college or university).
- Verifiable threat to the physical safety of the family.
- The receiving Public Housing Authority (PHA) absorbs the voucher
- Declared natural disaster or state of emergency

If your family has a specific situation that requires you to move to one of the listed Bay Area counties; you may contact a staff person in **Leased Housing Department at 510-587-2100** to discuss your options.



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