

KATRINA DISASTER HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – SPECIAL NEEDS (KDHAP-SN)

Fact Sheet

Overview

The Katrina Disaster Housing Assistance Program (KDHAP) has been enhanced to better target assistance to persons who were homeless prior to Hurricane Katrina, were displaced by Hurricane Katrina, and have special needs. In coordination with FEMA, Public Housing Authorities (PHA), and Continuum of Care (CoC) homeless assistance and HOPWA providers, HUD will administer the Special Needs component of the Katrina Disaster Housing Assistance Program (KDHAP-SN). This program component will provide housing search, housing stabilization service coordination and rental housing assistance for up to 18 months from the date of declaration of the disaster. Although eligibility for the KDHAP has been well defined, evacuees eligible for special needs assistance under KDHAP are specifically those who were sleeping on the streets or in other places not meant for human habitation or residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or housing assisted under the Supportive Housing (SHP), Shelter Plus Care (S+C) or Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs immediately prior to Hurricane Katrina. HUD seeks the assistance of Continuum of Care (CoC) homeless service providers and HOPWA grantees and project sponsors to share this information within the housing and supportive services network to quickly alert program beneficiaries of this assistance.

All KDHAP evacuee individuals and families, including those that may need the special assistance described in this fact sheet must **first register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and obtain a FEMA registration number** by December 31, 2005 in order to receive any assistance under KDHAP. Contact FEMA at: www.fema.gov or 1-800-621-3362 (1-800-462-7585 TTY).

Who is eligible for Special Needs component of KDHAP?

Persons who are eligible for special assistance are those who were living in the Hurricane Katrina Presidential Disaster Declaration areas in Louisiana, Mississippi or Alabama and were sleeping on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation or residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing or in housing assisted by one of three HUD programs (SHP-PH, S+C, HOPWA) between August 21-28, 2005.

What is the Special Needs component of KDHAP?

KDHAP is a HUD and FEMA initiative to provide a temporary rent subsidy to assist eligible individuals and families obtain decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the privately owned rental market.

KDHAP-SN is enhancements to the assistance provided under KDHAP to better serve those families that were homeless prior to Katrina. CoC and HOPWA providers will assist KDHAP-SN eligible households to locate suitable housing and assist in the transition to the new housing. KDHAP participating PHAs will inspect the units and issue rent subsidy payments up to 100% of the Fair Market Rent (FMR) limit to property owners.

As with all KDHAP eligible families transportation assistance is available through FEMA for households choosing to relocate to a community other than the one where they are currently staying. The CoC of origin (CoC from which the household evacuated) will provide the eligibility verification. The receiving CoC (CoC where the household wants to relocate) will provide the housing search and housing stabilization services.

Each CoC with current or anticipated KDHAP-SN eligible households as well as CoCs in the federally declared disaster area will identify a KDHAP-SN Administering Agency (KAA). HUD will enter into an agreement KAA for the provision of eligibility verification, housing search, and housing stabilization services for KDHAP-SN eligible households.

How can eligible persons apply for Special Needs component of KDHAP?

The point of contact in each participating CoC will be the KDHAP-SN Administering Agency (KAA). Eligible households will contact the KAA in the CoC where they are currently located. HUD will update the list of KAAs with contact information on the HUD website.

Each KAA may contract with Continuum and HOPWA providers to assist eligible households in applying for KDHAP-SN, verifying eligibility, providing housing search and housing stabilization service coordination.

What type of housing assistance is available?

Temporary rental assistance will pay up to 100% of the local Fair Market Rent limit and security deposits (rental and utility) in areas served by participating PHAs. Rental security deposit is limited to one month's rent and the utility security deposit is limited to \$325. PHAs will issue monthly rental assistance payments and eligible households may receive assistance for up to 18 months from the date of the disaster declaration. FEMA will provide transportation assistance for relocation to the new community.

Eligible households contribute \$0 towards rent unless the rent exceeds the FMR, then household pays any amount in excess of the FMR. Households pay for any utilities not included in the rent.

How will assistance be coordinated?

The KAA (or subcontract agency) and the PHA will work together in moving KDHAP-SN eligible households into housing. The KAA will transport the household to the PHA office, if necessary, and will provide KDHAP-SN eligibility verification, housing unit address, and landlord contact information to the PHA. The PHA will assist the household to execute a lease and the KDHAP lease addendum with the landlord. The KAA and the PHA will inform each other of identified landlord-tenant issues so they can be effectively resolved.

What type of documentation of client eligibility is required?

Individuals and families who are eligible for KDHAP-SN assistance have a 90-day period of provisional eligibility from the date of application to meet the certification/verification requirements. Service providers and project sponsors in the CoC of origin will verify and certify eligibility. When a provider is unable to verify and certify eligibility status, including when paper records are unavailable and program staff have no personal knowledge of the person, client self-certification may be possible.

Whenever possible, service providers in the CoC of origin should use information in the HMIS to verify homelessness prior to Katrina or residence in housing assisted under SHP, S+C or HOPWA. Agencies not participating in the HMIS prior to Katrina will need to document client eligibility. This can be accomplished by entering data from other project records into the HMIS, if records are accessible and staff is available to complete data entry, and by fax transmission of Certification/Verification form to the appropriate KAA.

Are there client confidentiality requirements?

Adequate steps must be taken to ensure the confidentiality of protected information on special needs clients, such as covered health care information on persons living with HIV/AIDS. HOPWA and homeless service providers must ensure that adequate training of staff is conducted on standard procedures for protecting confidential information.

What are the program recordkeeping and accountability requirements?

All participants should be reminded that all information provided to HUD, FEMA, KAAs, PHAs, and other agencies and organizations must be true and correct. Eligibility for KDHAP-SN must be documented and program records may be audited. Anyone found to receive assistance through this program by providing false information will be terminated from the program and may be required to make repayments and/or be subject to criminal prosecution or other such actions. Recipients of federal funding have a legal obligation to meet various reporting requirements and comply with applicable federal program audit requirements.

Questions?

HUD will use an email address as a central collection point for questions regarding KDHAP-SN. CoCs, homeless service providers, HOPWA providers or other stakeholders should submit questions regarding KDHAP-SN to: kdhapspecialneeds@hud.gov or call 1-866-373-9509. Anyone submitting questions must include a contact name, phone number, city and state information with the question(s).