

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**


Deval L. Patrick, Governor

◆ Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor

◆ Tina Brooks, Undersecretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Local Housing Agencies Issuing Alternative Housing Vouchers

FROM: Carole Collins  Director of the Bureau of Housing Management

RE: Suspension of New AHVP Voucher Issuance

DATE: February 27, 2007

Between November 2005 and August 2006, the Department announced a series of changes to the AHVP - increase in the Ceiling Rents, re-allocation of existing Vouchers, and awarding of new Vouchers - to accelerate program activity. We are pleased to announce that as a result of the hard work and dedication of you and your staff, this program is nearing its goal and to date nearly 500 non-elderly disabled individuals are leased on the AHVP. This is a wonderful achievement. However, due to the projected program costs for the remainder of this fiscal year, and the resulting higher annualized cost for the upcoming FY 08, it is no longer possible for LHAs to continue issuing AHVP Vouchers to waiting list applicants.

Therefore, the Department must implement *an immediate, statewide suspension of new AHVP Voucher issuance*. Until further notice no new AHVP Vouchers can be issued by your agency.

A member of my staff, Ann Cwartkowski, will be contacting your agency early next week to obtain data on the number of AHVP Voucher holders who were in the process of looking for a unit as of Wednesday, February 28, 2007 and will be reported as such on your February 2006 AHVP Tracking Form that is due here on or before March 10, 2007. This information is vital to DHCD and will be used by our staff to finalize program costs for FY 07, as well as to project an annualized cost for FY 08.

If you have provided any applicants with written notice to attend an upcoming briefing to receive their Voucher, you must contact the applicants and advise them that due to an increase in program costs, their briefing date must be postponed until a currently used Voucher becomes available. When an existing Voucher becomes available through turnover it may be re-issued to a new applicant from your AHVP waiting list, provided the LHA's total number of active Vouchers does not exceed the number leased/looking for a unit as of February 28, 2007. Although no **new** Vouchers may be issued at this time, you should not close your AHVP waiting list to new applicants unless you have requested and received DHCD's written authorization to do so. DHCD is hopeful that this suspension will be temporary, pending the program's funding level for FY 08.

In the coming weeks, Ann will be doing an inventory of the program involving the reconciliation of the information your LHA has reported (and should continue to report) to DHCD regarding Voucher issuance, lease-ups, terminations, etc. Upon completion of the inventory she will advise you of the total number of existing Vouchers DHCD records indicate your LHA had as of the February 28, 2007 suspension on **new** Voucher issuance.

DHCD appreciates the time and effort your LHA has given to this worthwhile program, and applaud the work that you and your staff are doing to ensure its continued success. We thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this most recent matter. If you have any questions regarding this Voucher suspension, please contact Ann at (617)-573-1222.