

Applying for Subsidized Housing in Philadelphia

CLS usually only provides advice for admission to public and subsidized housing. If you are currently trying to obtain subsidized housing, you may not need to come to our office. You should review the following options and come to us if you have any problems or questions. All programs screen for criminal records and credit.

Public Housing

- The waitlist for public housing is currently **closed**. However, the waitlists for senior public housing and special programs are currently **open**.
- Apply at the main office at 712 N. 16th Street (16th and Fairmount), at any PHA management office, or online at www.pha.phila.gov.
- Approximate waitlist length is 7-10 years.
- Wait may be shorter if you require handicapped accessible housing.
- Must notify PHA of any change of address. If you fail to update your contact information or respond to something they send you, you will be removed from the waitlist.
- It is a good idea to check in at least once a year to make sure you are still on the waitlist. You can check the waitlist status online [here](#).

Section 8 Voucher

- The waitlist is currently **closed** and has been since 2000, except for two weeks in March 2010.
- All applications prior to 2010 have been processed. If you applied prior to 2010 and have not received a voucher, then you are no longer on the waitlist.
- Section 8 will notify the public via radio, newspaper, TV, etc. when the waitlist reopens.
- Once you do get on the waitlist, the approximate wait time for a voucher is 7-10 years.
- Must notify PHA of any change of address. If you fail to respond to something they send you, you will be removed from the waitlist.
- It is a good idea to check in at least once a year to make sure you are still on the waitlist.

Section 8 Project-Based

- Search for available units in Philadelphia [here](#).
- Enter search criteria at the above site, then call as many of the listed buildings as you can and apply separately at each of them. You can ignore the rental price, etc. listed.
- The waitlists at these buildings tend to be significantly shorter than those for PHA and Section 8 voucher.
- Notify each building of any change in your contact information so they know how to reach you.
- It is a good idea to check in occasionally to make sure you are still on the waitlist.