

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Mainstream Program Waiting List and Application Process

This FAQ is designed to answer questions about applying for the Mainstream Program. If you have additional questions after reviewing these materials, please call the Mainstream Waiting List phone line at (602) 507-4170.

What is the Mainstream Program?

The Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Program (Mainstream Program) is a Housing Choice Voucher program (sometimes called Section 8) for eligible disabled families.

What is the jurisdiction for the Mainstream Program?

The jurisdiction for this Mainstream Program is all of Maricopa County. Participants may lease an approved unit with their Housing Choice Voucher anywhere in Maricopa County.

What are the eligibility criteria for the Mainstream Program?

For purposes of eligibility for this program, the following definitions apply:

1. **Disabled Family** - Disabled family means a family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities. It may include two or more persons with disabilities living together, or one or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides.

2. **Person with Disabilities** - Means a person who:
 - a. Has a disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. 423;
 - b. Is determined, pursuant to HUD regulations, to have a physical, mental or emotional impairment that:
 - i. Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;
 - ii. Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently; and
 - iii. Is of such a nature that the ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; or
 - c. Has a developmental disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. 6001.
 - d. Does not exclude persons who have the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiologic agent for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome;
 - e. For purposes of qualifying for low income housing, does not include a person whose disability is based solely on any drug or alcohol dependence.

3. **Income Eligibility** – The family’s gross annual income must be at or below the very-low income limits, as follows:

1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
\$ 25,550	\$ 29,200	\$ 32,850	\$ 36,450	\$ 39,400	\$ 42,300	\$ 45,200	\$ 48,150

4. **Waiting List Preference** – the ABC Mainstream Program has received an allocation of twenty-two (22) HCV for those applicants who are non-elderly (ages 18 – 61) persons with disabilities who are transitioning out of institutional or other segregated settings, at serious risk of institutionalization, homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Applicants who meet at least one of these preference categories will receive preference for placement on the waiting list. Only those applicants who meet at least one of the preference categories will be eligible for the new allocation vouchers. Those meeting one or more of these categories will also be eligible for regular Mainstream HCV.

Definition of Waiting Lists Preference Categories

Households must meet at least one of the following defined preference categories to be eligible for a preference on the waiting list. HOM will obtain independent third-party verification of the declared preference prior to any household being admitted to the Mainstream Program.

1. **Institutionalized:** Individual who is in an institutional setting, including but not limited to:
 - a. Congregate settings populated exclusively or primarily with individuals with disabilities; OR
 - b. Congregate settings characterized by regimentations in daily activities, or limits individual's ability to engage freely in community activities to manage their own activities of daily living; OR
 - c. Settings that provide for daytime activities primarily with other individuals with disabilities.
2. **At risk of institutionalization:** Individual with a disability who as a result of a public entity's failure to provide community services or its cuts to such services will likely cause the decline on health, safety or welfare that would lead to the individual's eventual placement in an institution. This includes individuals:
 - a. Experiencing lack of access to supportive services for independent living; OR
 - b. Individuals who are living under poor housing conditions; OR
 - c. Homeless with barriers to geographic mobility; and/or
 - d. Currently living alone but requiring supportive services for independent living.
3. **Homeless:** Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
 - a. Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; OR
 - b. Is living in a publicly or privately-operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements; OR
 - c. Is fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence; OR
 - d. Is living in a transitional housing unit.
4. **At risk of becoming homeless:** Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary residence, provided that:
 - a. Residence will be lost within 14 days of the application for housing assistance; OR
 - b. The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Are there other factors that could make me ineligible?

Additional eligibility criteria require U.S. citizenship or legal immigrant status, documentation of Social Security cards for all household members, signing required consent forms and additional “suitability” criteria requiring a criminal background check for all adult household members.

How do I apply for the Mainstream Program?

Interested applicants will submit a pre-application form online at the HOM web site at <http://hominc.com/hom-inc-mainstream-housing-opportunities.html> any time between 8 AM, Wednesday, July 10, 2019 and 5 PM, Tuesday, July 23, 2019. Applications may be submitted online 24 hours a day during the pre-application period. The pre-application collects minimal information about applicant households for purposes of placing pre-applicants on the waiting list.

How is the open enrollment be conducted?

Once the pre-application enrollment period closes, HOM will randomly sort the list of all applicants that applied and will place them on the waiting list in the order of the random sort. Applicants who claim to meet one or more of the waiting list preferences will receive preference for placement on the waiting list. HOM will send applicants a letter in the mail to notify them of their position on the waiting list as a result of the enrollment process.

Why are you using a random sort to determine positions on the waiting list? Wouldn't it be more fair if the list were first-come, first-served?

The open enrollment and random sort is the fairest way to give everyone an equal chance of being added to the waiting list. This avoids families having to wait for hours in line since there is no rush to be the first one to apply. Applying early will not improve someone's chances of being ranked higher on the waiting list. All households will have the same chance of being ranked on the waiting list regardless of when they apply during the pre-application period.

I don't have a computer at home. Where can I go to apply online?

Any computer, smart phone, or internet enabled device can be used to complete a pre-application. HOM has also partnered with many organizations in the community who will provide free access to computers at different locations throughout the community. See the attached list of locations and times.

What information do I need to apply for the program?

The online pre-application will require the following information:

- Name, relationship, date of birth for each member of the household
- Social Security Numbers for all household members
- Monthly gross income for the household (before taxes and other deductions)

Please have this information available before you start the pre-application process. The pre-application form will not allow you to save partially completed pre-applications (i.e. If you complete part of the pre-application but do not have all of the information on you, then the partially completed pre-application will be discarded and you will have to start the pre-application process from the beginning).

Will I need a social security number to apply?

Yes, all household members will be required to have a valid SSN. Please contact Social Security now to get this process started if you do not have a number.



Can my family submit more than one pre-application?

No. Only one pre-application per family will be allowed. Families that submit more than one pre-application may be disqualified.

How do I know if my pre-application went through?

At the end of the pre-application process, you will receive an e-mail confirmation of your submission. The e-mail confirms your pre-application has been received. Please save a copy of the e-mail for future reference in case any questions arise regarding your pre-application.

Will the pre-application be available in languages other than English?

Yes, the pre-application will also be available in Spanish. If you need assistance in completing the pre-application due to language barriers, please call the Mainstream Waiting List phone line at (602) 507-4170 and we will arrange for assistance in your language.

If I fill out the online-only pre-application form, does this mean I will receive housing assistance?

No. The pre-application will only give you a chance to be placed in the pool of applicants that will be added to waitlist. We will send you a confirmation letter letting you know your status/rank on the list.

In what order will the pre-applications be placed on the waiting list?

Once the pre-application enrollment period closes, HOM will randomly sort the list of all applicants that applied and will place the resulting applicants on the waiting list. Applicants who claim to meet one or more of the waiting list preferences will receive preference for placement on the waiting list.

How do I contact HOM if I'm having problems with the pre-application?

You can call the Mainstream Waiting List line at (602) 507-4170. Because we are expecting high volumes of phone calls during the pre-application period, please be patient. We will respond to your questions as soon as possible.

I don't understand how to fill out the information in the pre-application form. What do I do?

If you have difficulty with the pre-application process, please contact our office at (602) 507-4170. A team member will then help you with the registration process. Please note: Due to expected high volumes of calls, pre-application assistance may be delayed through the pre-application period. This will not affect your placement on the list since the final list is determined randomly.

I have a disability and need assistance completing the pre-application. Is there someone who will assist me?

Yes, HOM will have staff available to assist anyone who needs assistance completing a pre-application by calling (602) 507-4170. Because we are expecting high volumes of phone calls during the pre-application period, please be patient. We will respond to your questions as soon as possible.

Fair Housing and the Americans with Disabilities Act

We need help to ensure that all our programs, services, and activities are fully accessible to persons with disabilities. If you encounter any type of barrier that prevents you from receiving the full benefit of our programs, services, or activities, please contact our main office at (602) 265-4640. It is the policy of HOM to see that every individual regardless of race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, national origin, sexual orientation, familial status or disability shall have equal opportunity in accessing housing.

