# 5-Year PHA Plan (for All PHAs)

## U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Public and Indian Housing

OMB No. 2577-0226 Expires: 03/31/2024

Purpose. The 5-Year and Annual PHA Plans provide a ready source for interested parties to locate basic PHA policies, rules, and requirements concerning the PHA's operations, programs, and services, and informs HUD, families served by the PHA, and members of the public of the PHA's mission, goals and objectives for serving the needs of low- income, very low- income, and extremely low- income families

Applicability. The Form HUD-50075-5Y is to be completed once every 5 PHA fiscal years by all PHAs.

PHA Plan for Fiscal Year Beginning: (MM/YYYY): 01/2026 The Five-Year Period of the Plan (i.e. 2019-2023): 2026-2030 PHA Plan Submission Type: S-Year Plan Submission Revised 5-Year Plan Submission  Availability of Information. In addition to the items listed in this form, PHAs must have the elements listed below readily available to the pA PHA must identify the specific location(s) where the proposed PHA Plan, PHA Plan Elements, and all information relevant to the public hand proposed PHA Plan are available for inspection by the public. Additionally, the PHA must provide information on how the public may reasonably obtain additional information on the PHA policies contained in the standard Annual Plan, but excluded from their streamlined submissions. At a minimum, PHAs must post PHA Plans, including updates, at each Asset Management Project (AMP) and main office or coffice of the PHA. PHAs are strongly encouraged to post complete PHA Plans on their official websites. PHAs are also encouraged to provie each resident council a copy of their PHA Plans.	PHA Name: HOUSING	A Name: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT				
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В.	Plan Elements. Required for all PHAs completing this form.
<b>B.1</b>	<b>Mission.</b> State the PHA's mission for serving the needs of low-income, very low-income, and extremely low-income families in the PHA's jurisdiction for the next five years.
	The mission of the Housing Authority of the County of Humboldt (HACH) is to assist low-income families with safe, decent, and affordable housing opportunities as they strive to achieve self-sufficiency and improve the quality of their lives. HACH will achieve this mission by providing Housing Choice Vouchers, including VASH, Mainstream, FYI, and EHV vouchers, and Project Based Vouchers, as options to our clients and community, as well as other assistance opportunities that may come along from time to time. The Housing Authority is committed to operating in an efficient, ethical, and professional manner, and treating all clients with dignity and respect. The Housing Authority will create and maintain partnerships with its clients and appropriate community agencies in order to accomplish this mission.
B.2	Goals and Objectives. Identify the PHA's quantifiable goals and objectives that will enable the PHA to serve the needs of low-income, very low-income, and extremely low-income families for the next five years.  See attached 5-year Plan Goals.
B.3	<b>Progress Report.</b> Include a report on the progress the PHA has made in meeting the goals and objectives described in the previous 5-Year Plan.
	See attached progress report.
B.4	Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Goals. Provide a statement of the PHA's goals, activities, objectives, policies, or programs that will enable the PHA to serve the needs of child and adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
	The Administrative Plan for the Housing Choice Voucher Program of the Housing Authority of the County of Humboldt prohibits the denial of admission to an otherwise qualified applicant on the basis that the applicant is or has been a victim of domestic violence. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), addition to the Administrative Plan, was approved by the Board of Commissioners, on December 14, 2009, Resolution #386 (and updated subsequently). Additionally, the PHA maintains a preference for families that include victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who have either been referred by a partnering service agency or consortia or is seeking an emergency transfer under VAWA from the PHA's public housing program or other covered housing program operated by the PHA.
С.	Other Document and/or Certification Requirements.
C.1	<b>Significant Amendment or Modification</b> . Provide a statement on the criteria used for determining a significant amendment or modification to the 5-Year Plan.
	A Significant Amendment or modification is defined as an action that will have a financial impact of at least \$500,000 in any fiscal year.
C.2	Resident Advisory Board (RAB) Comments.
	(a) Did the RAB(s) have comments to the 5-Year PHA Plan?
	Y N □ ⊠
	(b) If yes, comments must be submitted by the PHA as an attachment to the 5-Year PHA Plan. PHAs must also include a narrative describing their analysis of the RAB recommendations and the decisions made on these recommendations.
	Note: The RAB met 06/04/2025. No comments or recommendations were made by the RAB specific to the 5-Year PHA Plan.

C.3	Certification by State or Local Officials.					
	Form HUD-50077-SL, Certification by State or Local Officials of PHA Plans Consistency with the Consolidated Plan, must be submitted by the PHA as an electronic attachment to the PHA Plan.					
C.4	Required Submission for HUD FO Review.					
	(a) Did the public challenge any elements of the Plan?					
	Y N □ ⊠					
	(b) If yes, include Challenged Elements.					
D.	Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).					

**D.1** 

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. (Non-qualified PHAs are only required to complete this section on the Annual PHA Plan. All qualified PHAs must complete this section.)

Provide a statement of the PHA's strategies and actions to achieve fair housing goals outlined in an accepted Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) consistent with 24 CFR § 5.154(d)(5). Use the chart provided below. (PHAs should add as many goals as necessary to overcome fair housing issues and contributing factors.) Until such time as the PHA is required to submit an AFH, the PHA is not obligated to complete this chart. The PHA will fulfill, nevertheless, the requirements at 24 CFR § 903.7(o) enacted prior to August 17, 2015. See Instructions for further detail on completing this item.

### **Fair Housing Goal:**

The Housing Authority aims to further awareness about fair housing.

To achieve this, we will make information available about fair housing rights and the procedures for filing fair housing complaints at locations readily accessible to the public, such as in our lobby and on our website, as well as at public outreach events.

# **Fair Housing Goal:**

The Housing Authority aims to continue furthering fair housing choices and take regular meaningful actions to affirmatively further and promote fair housing, improve access to opportunity, and prohibit discrimination.

To achieve this goal, we will seek to expand housing opportunities and remove impediments to fair housing in our programs. One action to improve access to opportunity is we will better inform applicants and participants in our programs about the Reasonable Accommodation option and process.

### **Fair Housing Goal:**

The Housing Authority will support enforcement of federal, state, and local fair housing laws, with a focus on source of income protection.

To achieve this goal, we will provide periodic newsletters to landlords with information about changes in California law, such as source of income protection, and actions that are not allowed.

### Instructions for Preparation of Form HUD-50075-5Y - 5-Year PHA Plan for All PHAs

- A. PHA Information. All PHAs must complete this section. (24 CFR § 903.4)
  - A.1 Include the full PHA Name, PHA Code, PHA Fiscal Year Beginning (MM/YYYY), Five-Year Period that the Plan covers, i.e. 2019-2023, PHA Plan Submission Type, and the Availability of Information, specific location(s) of all information relevant to the hearing and proposed PHA Plan.
    - PHA Consortia: Check box if submitting a Joint PHA Plan and complete the table.

### B. Plan Elements.

- **B.1 Mission.** State the PHA's mission for serving the needs of low- income, very low- income, and extremely low- income families in the PHA's jurisdiction for the next five years. (24 CFR § 903.6(a)(1))
- **B.2** Goals and Objectives. Identify the PHA's quantifiable goals and objectives that will enable the PHA to serve the needs of low-income, very low-income, and extremely low-income families for the next five years. (24 CFR § 903.6(b)(1))
- B.3 Progress Report. Include a report on the progress the PHA has made in meeting the goals and objectives described in the previous 5-Year Plan. (24 CFR § 903.6(b)(2))
- **B.4** Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Goals. Provide a statement of the PHA's goals, activities objectives, policies, or programs that will enable the PHA to serve the needs of child and adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. (24 CFR § 903.6(a)(3)).

### C. Other Document and/or Certification Requirements.

C.1 Significant Amendment or Modification. Provide a statement on the criteria used for determining a significant amendment or modification to the 5-Year Plan. For modifications resulting from the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, refer to the 'Sample PHA Plan Amendment' found in Notice PIH-2012-32, REV 2.

### C.2 Resident Advisory Board (RAB) comments.

- (a) Did the public or RAB have comments?
- (b) If yes, submit comments as an attachment to the Plan and describe the analysis of the comments and the PHA's decision made on these recommendations. (24 CFR § 903.17(b), 24 CFR § 903.19)

### C.3 Certification by State or Local Officials.

Form HUD-50077-SL, Certification by State or Local Officials of PHA Plans Consistency with the Consolidated Plan, must be submitted by the PHA as an electronic attachment to the PHA Plan.

### C.4 Required Submission for HUD FO Review.

Challenged Elements.

- Did the public challenge any elements of the Plan?
- (b) If yes, include such information as an attachment to the Annual PHA Plan or 5-Year PHA Plan with a description of any challenges to Plan elements, the source of the challenge, and the PHA's response to the public.

### D. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.

(Non-qualified PHAs are only required to complete this section on the Annual PHA Plan. All qualified PHAs must complete this section.)

**D.1** Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. The PHA will use the answer blocks in item D.1 to provide a statement of its strategies and actions to implement each fair housing goal outlined in its accepted Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) consistent with 24 CFR § 5.154(d)(5) that states, in relevant part: "To implement goals and priorities in an AFH, strategies and actions shall be included in program participants' ... PHA Plans (including any plans incorporated therein) .... Strategies and actions must affirmatively further fair housing ...." Use the chart provided to specify each fair housing goal from the PHA's AFH for which the PHA is the responsible program participant – whether the AFH was prepared solely by the PHA, jointly with one or more other PHAs, or in collaboration with a state or local jurisdiction – and specify the fair housing strategies and actions to be implemented by the PHA during the period covered by this PHA Plan. If there are more than three fair housing goals, add answer blocks as necessary.

Until such time as the PHA is required to submit an AFH, the PHA will not have to complete section D.; nevertheless, the PHA will address its obligation to affirmatively further fair housing in part by fulfilling the requirements at 24 CFR 903.7(o)(3) enacted prior to August 17, 2015, which means that it examines its own programs or proposed programs; identifies any impediments to fair housing choice within those programs; addresses those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available; works with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdiction's initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement; and maintain records reflecting these analyses and actions. Furthermore, under Section 5A(d)(15) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended, a PHA must submit a civil rights certification with its Annual PHA Plan, which is described at 24 CFR 903.7(o)(1) except for qualified PHAs who submit the Form HUD-50077-CR as a standalone document.

This information collection is authorized by Section 511 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act, which added a new section 5A to the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as amended, which introduced the 5-Year PHA Plan. The 5-Year PHA Plan provides the PHA's mission, goals and objectives for serving the needs of low- income, very low- income, and extremely low-income families and the progress made in meeting the goals and objectives described in the previous 5-Year Plan.

Public reporting burden for this information collection is estimated to average 1.64 hours per year per response or 8.2 hours per response every five years, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. HUD may not collect this information, and respondents are not required to complete this form, unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

**Privacy Act Notice.** The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development is authorized to solicit the information requested in this form by virtue of Title 12, U.S. Code, Section 1701 et seq., and regulations promulgated thereunder at Title 12, Code of Federal Regulations. Responses to the collection of information are required to obtain a benefit or to retain a benefit. The information requested does not lend itself to confidentiality.

# **PHA 5-Year Plan Goals**

# **Housing Authority of the County of Humboldt**

# 2026-2030 Goals and 2025 Update

# Goal One: <u>Maximize Voucher Utilization</u>

The Housing Authority of the County of Humboldt ("The PHA") makes every effort to utilize up to 100% of the Annual Contributions Contract, or more as allowed based on draws of HUD-held reserves.

To achieve this, the PHA shall maintain a waiting list of size sufficient to issue vouchers and lease-up clients to utilize at least 96% of our Annual Contributions Contract funding. The PHA will advertise in at least one local publication quarterly, as long as the wait list is open, in order to make the public aware of our open waitlist. Additionally, the PHA will seek opportunities with other local agencies to do outreach and education about our housing programs to diverse populations, at minimum once a month, with the goal of furthering voucher utilization.

HCV, VASH, and Mainstream monthly spending is above 100%, indicating that we are utilizing 100% of monthly funding. EHV program is treated separately; see goal #9.

# Goal Two: Increase Landlord Participation

When adequate funding is available, the PHA will offer landlord incentives in order to bring in new landlords and/or new units to the HCV program. Additionally, the PHA will continue to enhance and encourage communication with landlords via periodic newsletters, and work to maintain regular contact with landlords via outreach and education that promotes the participation of rental property owners in Humboldt's voucher assistance payment program.

- 1. Landlord Newsletter will go out at minimum once a year.
- A landlord orientation and/or appreciation event will be held at least once annually to acknowledge the landlords' critical role, share client success stories that promote the program, and educate current and prospective landlords about the HCV program.
- An annual landlord survey will be done via USPS mail with an online response option, seeking input/feedback from landlords. Any relevant feedback will be used to inform changes to operations.

2025 Update: Landlord newsletter is in process to update landlords on program funding and the luncheon planned for August 2025. Regular contact with landlords continues to be made by Housing Advocate and caseworkers. Annual landlord survey to be sent out after luncheon.

# Goal Three: <u>Utilize Project Based Vouchers to Expand the Supply of Assisted</u> Housing

The PHA's Project Based Voucher (PBV) program will continue to seek opportunities to release further PBV's to the community (pending approval from HUD to seek higher voucher utilization) and partner with local agencies and/or developers to allocate PBV's that increase affordable housing units in Humboldt County. RFPs will be published as needed and when determined to be consistent with the financial and programmatic goals of the agency.

The PHA may administer vouchers for the City of Eureka Housing Authority ("City") in support of the City's repositioning of its Public Housing stock and retaining or increasing affordable units. A resolution of support for the City of Eureka Housing Authority's Repositioning Plan was approved at a regularly scheduled board meeting on July 11, 2022.

2025 Update: 43 PBVs have been allocated for City "Green Phase" project (note that 8 will be new vouchers and 35 will come from existing allocation) and 47 PBVs allocated for City "Blue Phase" project (note that 16 will be new vouchers and 31 will come from existing allocation). Added 14 PBVs at Key Me Ek (AHP) at end of 2024. Will continue seeking opportunities to partner, using PBVs to increase new housing production.

### Goal Four: HUD Performance Evaluation & Quality of Assistance

In its last scored year for SEMAP (based on 2024 operations), the PHA scored a SEMAP rating of High Performer. The PHA aims to continue receiving the highest possible score under Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) and strives to maintain "High Performer" status.

- 1. The PHA will continue to perform quality control checks on tenant files, income calculations, and inspections.
- 2. Upon receipt of HUD certified SEMAP scoring, results will be presented to the Board of Commissioners.
- 3. For any score less than "High Performer" a remediation plan will be implemented and presented with the scoring.

2025 Update: Quality control file checks and inspections continue to occur periodically. SEMAP score for FYE 12/31/2024 earned a High Performer designation for Humboldt PHA.

# Goal Five: Compliance

Management will periodically review internal controls to verify appropriate policies and procedures remain in place, up to date, and operating effectively. The PHA will ensure full compliance with all applicable standards and regulations including generally accepted accounting practices (GAAP) and governmental accounting standards board (GASB), with a goal of zero findings in annual audits, with audit report, including any findings, to be made available and presented annually.

- 1. Completed audit for FYx1 will be presented at a regular board of commissioners' meeting before the end of FYx2.
- 2. Completed audit report will be posted on agency website.

2025 Update: 2024 Audit in process. 2023 Audit had no findings and was presented to the board at a normally scheduled meeting.

# Goal Six: **Employee Morale**

The PHA will promote and maintain a motivating work environment that attracts highly talented applicants and acknowledges a capable team of employees.

- Budget will be allocated, approved and available to send appropriate staff to training seminars that will allow employees to gain new knowledge and/or enhance staff skills for their particular job classification and responsibilities.
- 2. On-demand training will be available to all staff and periodically assigned by management through a contract with Yardi.
- 3. Management will review training progress quarterly to identify possible opportunities for training that align with agency needs and support gaps in employee skills or knowledge.
- 4. The PHA will acknowledge staff monthly for their achievements by providing an employee recognition award to an employee selected by the management team.

2025 Update: Staff training budget is being utilized to further staff education around housing-related topics and earn certifications in HUD specific areas of expertise (e.g. HCV Income Calculation Certification). Yardi Aspire on-demand training continues to be used for internal training assignments and at-will by staff. Management reviews training budget utilization monthly and recognizes an employee of the month every month.

# Goal Seven: <u>Technology and Accessibility</u>

The PHA will add to our selection of resources available online in order to remove barriers to accessibility, better meet our client's needs to access and complete paperwork remotely, and offer multiple methods to successfully communicate with agency staff.

We will periodically assess the need to add data to the website. The following documents will be available online, at a minimum:

- 1. Application
- 2. Notice of Change
- 3. Recertification paperwork
- 4. Board meeting agendas
- 5. Administrative Plan
- 6. PHA Plan

2025 Update: In addition to providing regular website updates, a computer room with a printer available to clients for printing bank statements and other verification paperwork necessary for Housing Authority programs continues to be available. This information is also on the Housing Authority website.

# Goal Eight: Mainstream Vouchers

The Mainstream Vouchers program was added in 2020 to bring more opportunity to the disabled community. A limited preference was added which allows for voucher placement based on referrals from Continuum of Care participating agencies for up to 50 active vouchers for people/families who are non-elderly, disabled, formerly homeless and participating in a Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Re-Housing program.

Per HUD's program requirements, the PHA aims to have at least 80% of these vouchers leased annually. This will be accomplished by:

- Monthly or more frequent (as needed) meetings and communications with partner agencies to discuss, review and encourage referrals;
- Housing Advocate working as liaison between the PHA and partner agencies to facilitate completion of paperwork, education of social workers and program participants, and continued outreach to landlords to add new units/landlords; and
- 3. Regularly pulling eligible applicants from the waitlist for screening/briefing and issuance of vouchers.

2025 Update: As of 6/3/2025, over 94% of Mainstream vouchers are leased up. We will continue issuing vouchers and accepting referrals to

get to 100%, at which point vouchers will be issued only when turnover happens, or if new vouchers are added.

# Goal Nine: **Emergency Housing Vouchers**

The Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) program was added in 2021 to bring more opportunity to community members most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This program requires that referrals for the 182 vouchers be made from the local Continuum of Care, Humboldt Housing and Homeless Coalition (HHHC), or by a domestic violence service provider, Humboldt Domestic Violence Services (HDVS), to the PHA, for voucher issuance. A dedicated EHV Housing Specialist works with the clients and referring partners to process paperwork, help find potential housing, make referrals to other agencies for supportive services, and generally support the success of the client in the EHV program. Vouchers may be issued until 9/30/2023. Thereafter, turnover EHVs can no longer be issued.

2025 Update: All 182 EHVs were issued by 9/30/2023, and PHA has met the original goal of 80% utilization of EHVs. Because future funding for the EHV program has been shortened from a 2030 sunset to 2026, PHA will be communicating with landlords to encourage tenant retention however possible. PHA will consider implementing a preference to convert EHV participants to HCV when vouchers may be issued again.

## Goal Ten Customer Feedback

In order to provide for continuous improvement, the PHA will use various methods to invite feedback from interested parties, including voucher clients, landlords, community members, and staff.

We will provide an annual survey to clients to ask for their feedback and input on specific areas of focus.

We will implement a standard feedback process for any parties concerned for reporting issues, suggesting changes, and otherwise seeking answers.

2025 Update: An online survey will be emailed to voucher clients. Responses will be collected and shared at a future date.