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**Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority bringing administration
of Housing Choice Vouchers Program back in-house**

*The much-anticipated transition comes with renewed commitment
by CMHA to enhance and expedite services for clients, landlords*

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The **Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA)** announced today it plans to resume day-to-day client service operations management for its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, the agency’s largest program in Franklin County, serving approximately 40,000 Franklin County residents.

CMHA’s decision reflects its continuous efforts to evaluate the most efficient and effective administration of the Housing Choice Voucher program. As CMHA transitions to resuming in-house management, CMHA must pause individual appointments to the public for two weeks beginning Friday, Feb. 14, through Friday, Feb. 28. During this two-week timeframe, CMHA will continue to accept and process requests for tenancy approvals and schedule property inspections, so as to not delay participant move-ins.

CMHA will open for HCV service effective Monday, March 3. Services will be provided by CMHA staff from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at CMHA’s office at 1407 Cleveland Ave. in Columbus, which offers free onsite parking and is located on a COTA bus line and has enhanced accessibility for people with disabilities. Appointments can be scheduled in person or by calling CMHA at 614-421-6000.

“By bringing the Housing Choice Voucher program back in-house, we are demonstrating our commitment to ensuring that residents receive the highest level of service and support,” said **CMHA Chief Program Officer Scott Ammarell**. “With these changes, CMHA is redefining how we serve Columbus’s most vulnerable families.

“This strategy will allow us to be more responsive than ever before to the needs of our clients, including more direct assistance to Franklin County residents and landlords alike while ensuring that our staff has the tools and resources needed to provide exceptional service,” Ammarell said.

Chris Martin, a Columbus landlord who has worked with CMHA and rental clients for several years, said he is already seeing improvements in the efficiency of CMHA’s inspection service even before the HCV program transition is complete.

“The difference in working with CMHA recently is absolutely amazing,” said Martin, the managing partner of The Christopher Corporation, LLC.

“I turned in four units last week, and the CMHA team got the paperwork done the same day, had an inspection and the contracts are now signed,” Martin said. “All of that happened in less than 14 days, and the inspections were done in six days, including weekend days. Even during the best days for CMHA, I do not remember things going this quickly.

“The turnaround and excellent services to clients and landlords is something CMHA’s staff should all be proud of,” Martin said.

How Housing Choice Vouchers Work

The Housing Choice Voucher program also known as Section 8 housing is a rent assistance program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Congress established Section 8 housing programs with the Housing and Community Development Act in 1974. HUD’s goal is to ensure that low-wage earners can find safe housing outside of public housing options.

The HCV program provides housing assistance for very low-income earning families, the elderly and the disabled, allowing them to live in quality affordable housing in the private market. Because housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses or apartments in neighborhoods of their choice. Participants are free to choose any housing that meets the program's requirements and are not limited to units located in subsidized housing communities.

A family that is issued a voucher is responsible for finding a suitable unit where the owner agrees to rent under the HCV program. Rental units must meet minimum standards of health and safety, as determined by CMHA. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by CMHA on behalf of the participating family. The family then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program, with payments capped at 30% of the family’s income

The program not only helps renters, it also provides landlords with a steady, guaranteed source of income.

CMHA currently pays Franklin County landlords over \$12 million monthly through its voucher program. Since 2018, CMHA has issued more than \$800 million in annual subsidies to private landlords, according to a 2024 study conducted by the **Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation** in collaboration with financial consultant **SRC EvalMetrics LLC** that measured CMHA’s impact on Franklin County, the Columbus metropolitan statistical area (MSA) and Ohio.

About Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority

CMHA helps people access affordable housing through collaborative partnerships, promotes neighborhood revitalization and assists residents in accessing needed social services. CMHA owns nearly 6,000 units of housing, and through its Housing Choice Voucher and Project-Based Rental Assistance programs, it provides rental assistance to more than 160,000 Ohio and Washington, D.C., residents. Learn more at cmhanet.com.

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