



Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: What does it mean that the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program is “ending”?

A: The EHV program was created in 2021 to assist people experiencing homelessness; at risk of homelessness; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or who recently experienced homelessness and for whom rental assistance will help prevent their homelessness or a high risk of housing instability. Federal funding for the EHV program was expected to continue through 2030. In March 2025, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the funding is ending five years sooner than expected. SDHC does not have replacement funds or vouchers to continue to provide rental assistance to EHV families after HUD permanently stops funding the program.

SDHC estimates that its EHV funding will cover the average EHV housing assistance payment until fall of 2026. At that time, SDHC will **not** be able to continue to help EHV households pay their rent. They will become responsible for their full contract rent amount.

Q2: When will my EHV assistance end?

A: SDHC estimates that its remaining HUD funding for EHV will end in fall 2026. SDHC will issue a notice at least 90 days in advance before sending the final rental assistance payment to your landlord on your behalf.

Q3: Can I appeal the ending of my EHV or request an extension?

A: No, this is not an individual decision made about a specific family. The program is ending because HUD is no longer providing funding.

Q4: Can I be transferred to another housing program, like HCV or PBV?

A: SDHC does not have additional funding, other vouchers, or programs to transfer your assistance.

There may be a chance for you to transfer to a Project-Based Voucher (PBV). PBVs provide rental assistance that is tied to a specific rental housing unit. Rental assistance is provided while you live in the PBV unit. If you move from the unit, your rental assistance ends.

SDHC's waiting list for PBVs now includes a preference for EHV families. This means you will be prioritized over others on the waiting list. This preference is only available to SDHC's existing, assisted EHV participants. It will not be available to new EHV families who move from another jurisdiction into the City of San Diego. It is also not available for currently administered EHV participants who moved into the City from other jurisdictions. Please keep in mind that the number of PBVs that will be available before EHV funding ends will not be enough to serve most EHV families. This means only a small number of EHV families at risk of losing their vouchers may find housing with an SDHC PBV.

To be eligible for a PBV unit, you must apply to SDHC's project-based waiting list.

Q5: How do I apply to SDHC's waiting lists?

A: Applying for SDHC's PBV waiting list is optional for you.

EHV households interested in joining the SDHC PBV waiting list can apply at <https://waitlist.sdhc.org>. To apply for upcoming PBV units with an EHV preference, you **must** take the following two actions:

Step 1. Submit an application at <https://waitlist.sdhc.org>. You will need a valid email address and password to register.

Step 2. Call SDHC at 619-578-7717 or email at ehv@sdhc.org to confirm you submitted an application.

This will make it possible for SDHC staff to add the EHV preference to your waiting list application. If you do not complete step 2, your application will not receive the EHV preference on the waiting list.

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Q6: Who should I contact if I have questions about my lease responsibilities after the EHV program ends?

- A:** If you have questions about your lease responsibilities after the EHV program ends, you should:
1. Contact your landlord to talk about your current lease terms and explore options.
 2. Reach out to Legal Aid Society of San Diego (<https://www.lassd.org/> or 877-534-2524) for guidance on your rights and responsibilities as a tenant or landlord. They can help you understand your lease obligations and provide support to best address any remaining lease requirements or tenant protection regulations.

Q7: Will I have to move from my home after the EHV rental assistance ends?

- A:** Not necessarily. If you can afford the full contract rent for your home after the EHV rental assistance ends, you can continue to reside in your current home without rental assistance.

SDHC also recommends beginning to plan your housing options well in advance of fall 2026. This may include contacting your landlord to talk about options for you to take over the full rent responsibilities when the EHV program ends. Early preparation will help ensure a smoother transition when the EHV program ends.

Q8: Will I need to repay the security deposit grant or housing placement items received through EHV?

- A:** No, you do not need to repay any financial assistance that SDHC provided to you when you started in the EHV program. These include security deposit grants, utility deposits, holding fees, and similar costs that were funded through a grant to help you lease your home. If any portion of assistance is refunded to you, you may use those funds toward a deposit for your next home—if you choose to move.

Q9: I was referred through a domestic violence/human trafficking/homeless services provider. Will I be prioritized for other housing assistance?

- A:** Participation in one program does not automatically qualify you for another. Each housing program has its own eligibility criteria, application process, waiting list, and availability.

We encourage you to connect with community resources listed in the SDHC Resource Guide or those listed below to explore your options:

- The Housing First – San Diego Hotline at (619) 578-7768
- 2-1-1 San Diego
- Coordinated Entry Access Sites
- Legal Aid Society of San Diego at (877) 534-2524 or visit <https://www.lassd.org/>
- San Diego Housing Commission Achievement Academy at (619) 578-7451 or email achievementacademy@sdhc.org

Q10: What if I have reasonable accommodation in place?

- A:** If you have a Reasonable Accommodation (RA) tied to the EHV program, your RA will end with the program. If you transfer to an SDHC Project-Based Voucher unit, your RA will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If you do not transfer to an SDHC Project-Based Voucher unit, SDHC will no longer be administering your family's rental assistance after the EHV program ends. Your RA will end with the program.

Q11: Can I move before the EHV funding expires?

- A:** Yes, you may move until SDHC issues a final notice confirming the end of your participation in the EHV program.

Q12: Will I receive any financial assistance to relocate to a new home?

- A:** No. However, please also see the answer to Question 8.

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Q13: Will I still need to recertify if the program is ending?

A: As long as you receive rental assistance from SDHC, you are required to continue to comply with all program requirements. This includes following program rules, fulfilling your responsibilities, and completing the recertification process, as required, until your participation in the EHV program ends.

Please ensure you continue to comply with these requirements. When you receive the final notice of rental assistance payment and program participation from SDHC, you will no longer be required to complete certifications with SDHC.

Q14: Can I still report a reduction of income or make changes to my household composition during the remaining months of the program?

A: Yes, while you are currently receiving rental assistance, you must continue to comply with all program requirements until your participation in the program ends. This includes following program rules, fulfilling your responsibilities, and completing the certification process as required. Please ensure you continue to comply with these requirements. After you receive the final notice of the rental assistance payment and program participation from SDHC, you will no longer be required to complete certifications with SDHC.

Q15: How can I verify if I am considered a port-in administered? What impact does that have on my EHV funding or end date?

A: You may be an administered port-in if:

- You transferred to SDHC from another housing authority.

If you are unsure about your portability status, you can call (619) 578-7717 or email ehv@sdhc.org to inquire.

Participants who have ported into SDHC are encouraged to contact their initial public housing authority for guidance about the continuation of their EHV rental assistance. Participants who ported into SDHC from another housing agency are not eligible for the local EHV preference on the SDHC PBV waiting list.

Q16: When will I be notified of the final date my assistance will end?

A: SDHC will provide funding updates on our website at <https://sdhc.org/ehv>. If SDHC does not receive additional funds, we will provide you and your landlord with notices within the next 12 months. You will receive a notice at least 90 days before SDHC issues the final rental assistance payment to the landlord on your behalf.

Q17: What can I do to prepare?

A: SDHC's priority is to ensure that you remain connected to resources that can support your transition out of the EHV program after your rental assistance ends. We encourage you to have open communication with your landlord and connect with community resources listed in the SDHC Resource Guide or those listed below to explore your options:

- The Housing First – San Diego Hotline at (619) 578-7768
- 2-1-1 San Diego
- Coordinated Entry Access Sites
- Legal Aid Society of San Diego at (877) 534-2524 or visit <https://www.lassd.org/>
- San Diego Housing Commission Achievement Academy at (619) 578-7451 or email achievementacademy@sdhc.org

Q18: Who should I contact if I have questions or need additional help?

A: You can contact SDHC at (619) 578-7717 or email ehv@sdhc.org with questions or to request assistance.