



Housing Authority of the City of Columbia, Missouri

201 Switzler Street, Columbia, MO 65203
Office: (573) 443-2556 ♦ TTY: (573) 875-5161 ♦ Fax Line: (573) 443-0051 ♦ www.ColumbiaHA.com

May 6, 2009

TENANT NAME
ADDRESS

RE: Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher **Temporarily Suspended–PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

Dear TENANT NAME:

By our records, you hold a current Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher. Due to funding constraints, that voucher is **temporarily suspended** until further notice.

What Does This Mean?

Suspension of the voucher means that you will not be able to use your voucher to continue the leasing process at this time. You will be able to use the voucher with the full amount of time left on it, once we know our funding status for 2009. This delay in your ability to use your voucher does not affect your time to use the voucher. **The vouchers are suspended effective 05-05-09.** They will be restored with additional time for every day of suspension, after the funding levels for CHA are determined for 2009.

Why Is This Happening?

CHA is unable to process additional vouchers at this time because of several reasons.

First, CHA has not been given the official information about the 2009 budget yet. Note that this says “2009” budget. We are in May and have been operating on an advance from the government for each month in 2009 so far. In order to keep CHA’s Section 8 running, the government has been giving us approximately 90% of 2008’s funding. This funding is not enough to keep paying rent for everyone on the program and still add new families. The last thing we would want to do would be to put families on in May only to let them know in July that we would be unable to pay their rent. When your turn on the program arrives, we want to make sure that you have sufficient funding for your stay, too.

Second, the program has a set number of families it can help. When a family leaves the program (for any reason), it opens a slot for the next family. CHA has tried very hard to keep families ready and waiting by holding group briefings ahead of time and issuing vouchers to keep the flow of families coming. However, in this economy, fewer families are leaving the program. Where CHA had been seeing 30-35 families leave every month, last month only saw 22 families leave. The number of families leaving had held steady for quite some time until recently with the economy crunch. Now fewer families are graduating from the program; more people need the assistance longer. That means fewer slots are available for new families.

What Happens Next?

We ask for your patience as we wait on funding information. We will notify you promptly by mail when we lift the suspension. You will be given a new expiration date for your voucher at that time.

We appreciate your eagerness to participate on this program and remind you that Section 8 is not designed for emergency housing. If you have immediate housing needs, please feel free to explore other housing options with CHA such as applying for public housing. Applications are available at the Administrative Building, 201 Switzler Street, Columbia, Missouri. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact your Section 8 Specialist at 573.443.2556.

Sincerely,

Vikki Pauley, Director of Housing Programs