

## **MAINSTREAM VOUCHER PROGRAM**

### **Purpose and Summary:**

**Mainstream Vouchers will provide assistance to assist non-elderly persons with disabilities who are:**

- Transitioning out of an institutional setting (such as a nursing home)**
- At serious risk of institutionalization**
- Homeless, or**
- At risk of becoming homeless**

**As stated Mainstream Vouchers must be used to assist non-elderly persons and their families with the following eligibility requirements:**

- The non-elderly person with disabilities must be at least 18 years of age and less than 62 years of age.**
- The eligible household member DOES NOT need to be the head of household.**
- Eligibility for the voucher is determined at the time the voucher is first issued to the family. Non-elderly persons who turn 62 after receiving the voucher will not lose assistance.**

**To issue these vouchers the HACC will modify its preference point system so that those qualifying for Mainstream assistance will receive priority on the waiting list. If you meet the disability requirement and qualify in one of the four above listed categories the following preference points will be provided to you and will help determine your placing on the waiting list:**

**Homeless – 150 preference points**

**In danger of institutionalization – 150 preference points**

**Transitioning out of an institution – 150 preference points**

**At risk of homelessness – 75 preference points**

**In Chester County, all individuals who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness must first contact the coordinated entry system called Connect Points. A Connect Points representative will talk with you to determine the nature and severity of your housing situation. Based on that determination, if you are homeless, you may be placed on the list for admittance to a shelter where you will be assessed for the best program that will meet your needs. That review may result in a referral to be placed on the Mainstream Voucher waiting list.**

If you are at risk of homelessness, a Connect Points representative will determine the nature of that risk and, if qualified, you may also be referred to the waiting list for the Mainstream Program. **Connect Points telephone number is 1-800-935-3181.** Please take note that being referred does not guarantee that you will necessarily receive assistance as you still must meet all the required eligibility requirements for the Housing Choice Voucher Program (also known as Section 8).

AGAIN, PLEASE REMEMBR IN ALL CASES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR MAINSTREAM VOUCHERS SOMEONE IN THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY MUST BE 18 OR OLDER AND UNDER 62 YEARS OF AGE. THEY MUST ALSO FIT INTO ONE OF THE FOUR PRIORITY PRFERENCE CATEGORIES LISTED ABOVE. AND, PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THAT THE ONLY WAY THAT YOU CAN BE PLACE ON THE WAITING LIST IS BY REFERRAL!!

In issuing these new vouchers, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has provided definitions for the four eligible preference categories if you are under 62 years of age and are disabled. Those definitions are included as an attachment to this description. That attachment is part of the original competition among housing authorities for the vouchers. The document that contained this information is called a Notice Of Funding Availability (NOFA). In detail it explains the definition of who may qualify for these vouchers. [Please click here to view the attachment!](#)

Thank you.