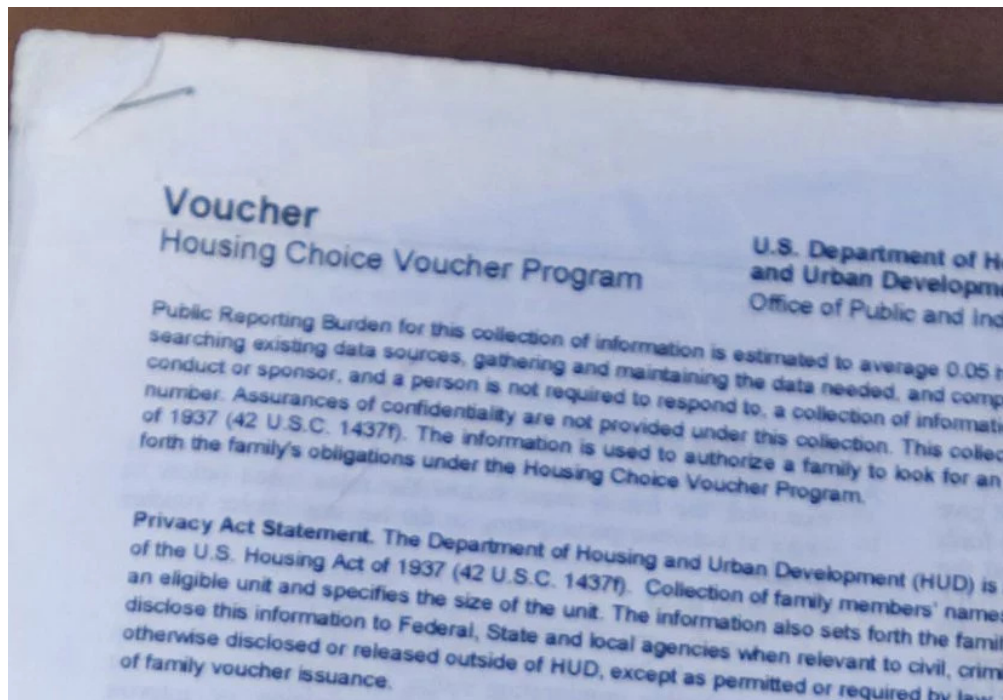


BUSINESS > HOUSING

Deadline for San Bernardino's Section 8 voucher applications draws near

As of noon Wednesday, 13,442 households had applied.



San Bernardino has opened its Section 8 application process with a deadline of Feb. 25. In Riverside County, the application process revolves all year. (File photo)

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PUBLISHED: February 20, 2019 at 2:59 pm | UPDATED: February 20, 2019 at 3:16 pm

The window to join the lottery and be placed on the county's waiting list is scheduled to close at 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25.

ADVERTISING

As of noon Wednesday, 13,442 households had applied for inclusion on the list, said Ana Gamiz, director of policy and public relations for the Housing Authority of San Bernardino County. About 4,500 people have signed up in the last week.

“We’re seeing about 400 to 600 applications a day,” Gamiz said. “The call center has been really busy.”

The lottery was last opened four years ago when 25,000 people signed up. Gamiz is expecting a lot of last-minute applications.

“It wouldn’t be unusual if people said ‘Oh, the 25th is here. We have to sign up now,’” she said.

People who want to apply can call 877-425-4004 for more information or go hacsb.com. Applicants will be asked to sign up online. They’ll be directed to at least two-dozen public facilities that have free computer access.

Section 8 housing assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, now called the Tenant-Based Voucher Program, gives local jurisdictions a fixed pool of money. Counties enact their own rules for dispersing the funds, estimated at \$7.3 million per month for San Bernardino County. [The subsidies](#) help some 10,000 income-stressed households.

Applicants who pass preliminary screening are placed on a waiting list based on a computerized lottery. There are about 2,000 households on that list now. [Annual income limits](#) range from a family of one earning \$37,750 to a family of eight that makes \$71,150.

Gamiz has previously estimated it could take from five to seven years to accommodate everyone on the waiting list.

Riverside County's enrollment for voucher applicants is perpetually open, and recently a county official said 80,000 households are on the waiting list. It could take from three to 12 years to accommodate everyone seeking the county's assistance.

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