
Updated April 11, 2019

Housing Voucher Data Tables

Sources and Methodology

The number of **“Authorized Vouchers”** that housing agencies can use is the number of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) set and approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and reflects the historical allocation of funding by Congress. It does not reflect current need. The data for each agency were downloaded from HUD’s [Resident Characteristics Report](#) (RCR) or [Picture of Subsidized Households](#), depending on the data available for a given year.

Newly issued vouchers may be reported in HUD’s [Voucher Management System](#) (VMS) monthly reports before they are reflected in other HUD data sources that are compiled annually. We made several adjustments to the authorized unit data from RCR or Picture of Subsidized Households to account for this lag in reporting. Authorized unit counts were adjusted to include tenant protection vouchers and the veterans’ supportive housing (VASH) vouchers awarded during the fiscal year. Beginning in 2016, we also adjusted the authorized count for agencies converting units of Public Housing to project-based vouchers under the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD). We added the number of RAD units converted in the current or prior year to an agency’s authorized unit count, if the reported authorized unit count was smaller than the reported average number of vouchers the agency leased. Authorized units that were adjusted to reflect a RAD conversion are highlighted in the tables.

“Number of Families Using Vouchers” represents the monthly average number of housing vouchers leased during the calendar year or quarter, as reported by housing agencies to HUD’s VMS. All averages are rounded to the nearest whole number. All Housing Choice Vouchers, including those issued under the VASH program, were included in the averages for authorized vouchers and vouchers in use. The data may not reflect corrections submitted by agencies after HUD released the data but do reflect adjustments by CBPP to correct for obvious errors. Renewal funding for these vouchers is now included in the annual appropriation for tenant-based rental assistance but is allocated separately.

The **“Lease-Up Rate”** is the percentage of an agency’s “authorized housing vouchers” that households are using to lease units. To calculate this, we used the authorized voucher count as of the prior December, except for 2004 and 2005, where we used data for January and June, respectively, because comparable data were unavailable. We used authorized vouchers as of the prior December in the denominator to account for the time it takes housing agencies to lease up new

vouchers. Note that this method may yield utilization estimates that are very high for agencies that received and leased new authorized vouchers — such as allocations of new tenant protection or VASH vouchers — after December.

“Total Voucher Assistance Payment to Owners” is the amount paid by housing agencies to private owners in the form of voucher assistance payments in the calendar year. It is the total reported Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) for the calendar year from VMS. This total includes voucher assistance payments made to reimburse tenants for certain utility costs.

All authorized unit counts, leasing averages, and utilization rates have been adjusted to reflect housing agencies that merged with one another between 2004 and 2017.

“N/A” indicates the agency did not administer vouchers during that year or the data reported for the year are incomplete.

“Voucher Assistance Funding Received” is the total amount of funding for voucher assistance payments (but not administrative expenses) that Congress makes available to each housing agency administering the Housing Choice Voucher program in a given year. These data are from HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher two-year forecasting tool.

“Estimated Voucher Assistance Spending” is an estimate of voucher assistance funds that an agency spent in 2018. We used data from HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher two-year forecasting tool, which includes monthly data that agencies had reported through September 2018. We projected expenditures for October through December using the average rate of change that occurred from January through September. We assumed that expenditures in October through December would change at the same average rate as previous months. Note that, for agencies participating in the Moving to Work demonstration, spending amounts include funds used for program administration, housing rehabilitation and development, and services, as well as to provide voucher assistance.

“Estimated Funding Reserves” is an estimate of the amount of unspent voucher assistance funds that an agency had at the end of the year. For each agency, the estimated funding reserves at the end of the year is equal to the sum of the reported reserves at the beginning of the year (including HUD-held reserves) and the total voucher assistance funding received in the year, minus estimated voucher assistance spending for the year. We used data from HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher two-year forecasting tool (see above regarding our estimate of voucher assistance spending).