

July 16, 2008

Nationwide Housing Voucher Data

- Of the 2,191,371 vouchers authorized for agencies nationwide, only 90 percent were used by families last year.
- In contrast, 96 percent of authorized vouchers were used in 2004, before policy changes and underfunding led to a decline in utilization, representing a loss of vouchers for about 120,000 families.
- This year, housing agencies have sufficient funds, including reserves, to assist 190,000 additional families, thereby using up to 98 percent of their authorized vouchers. To encourage agencies to make efficient use of these resources, agencies must be reassured that voucher renewal funding policy will be both stable and take into account the additional vouchers used by these families. Congress should enact the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act (H.R. 1851 and S. 2684) to provide confidence that renewal funding needs will be met in future years, thereby encouraging agencies to put as many of their vouchers to use as possible.

	2004	2005	2006	2007		2008			
	% of Authorized Vouchers in Use	% of Authorized Vouchers in Use	% of Authorized Vouchers in Use	% of Authorized Vouchers in Use	Number of Vouchers in Use	Authorized Vouchers as of January 2008	Authorized Vouchers Funded under Renewal Formula	Additional Authorized Vouchers That Could be Funded Using Remaining Reserves	% of Authorized Vouchers Funded (Counting Reserves)
National Total	96%	92%	89%	90%	1,956,827	2,191,371	2,028,968	120,561	98%
Alabama	95%	89%	83%	83%	26,067	31,644	26,753	4,266	98%
Alaska	97%	92%	86%	99%	4,154	4,216	4,203	13	100%
Arizona	97%	94%	91%	92%	18,787	20,441	19,140	1,102	99%
Arkansas	96%	92%	90%	91%	20,701	22,686	21,491	944	99%
California	100%	97%	94%	95%	284,700	299,902	288,881	10,428	100%
Colorado	99%	96%	96%	98%	27,776	28,370	27,817	513	100%

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Connecticut	93%	91%	88%	87%	31,395	36,355	32,569	3,117	98%
Delaware	97%	93%	94%	95%	4,294	4,546	4,384	39	97%
District of Columbia	99%	98%	94%	83%	9,963	12,272	12,272	0	100%
Florida	96%	93%	87%	89%	83,860	94,826	86,649	6,488	98%
Georgia	97%	89%	84%	84%	45,364	55,320	51,523	3,324	99%
Hawaii	89%	82%	75%	77%	9,171	11,954	9,370	580	83%
Idaho	99%	96%	92%	97%	6,257	6,527	6,500	27	100%
Illinois	86%	82%	80%	80%	74,607	93,321	87,811	2,316	97%
Indiana	95%	89%	86%	85%	32,195	37,752	32,613	4,098	97%
Iowa	98%	93%	92%	95%	20,907	22,050	21,019	752	99%
Kansas	96%	88%	87%	92%	11,000	11,977	11,171	754	100%
Kentucky	98%	92%	89%	89%	29,553	32,938	30,619	1,174	97%
Louisiana	92%	82%	56%	58%	23,388	42,107	29,671	1,868	75%
Maine	95%	95%	94%	96%	11,931	12,443	12,235	198	100%
Maryland	89%	85%	81%	80%	36,576	45,736	39,500	1,761	90%
Massachusetts	98%	96%	95%	96%	69,431	72,583	69,631	2,900	100%
Michigan	92%	89%	86%	91%	47,847	53,078	48,782	3,684	99%
Minnesota	97%	94%	95%	97%	29,780	30,838	29,746	1,028	100%
Mississippi	97%	88%	63%	75%	14,167	19,366	18,900	205	99%
Missouri	96%	91%	91%	93%	38,542	41,712	39,528	1,883	99%
Montana	98%	95%	92%	92%	5,295	5,784	5,414	370	100%
Nebraska	97%	93%	94%	95%	10,867	11,454	11,211	209	100%
Nevada	98%	97%	90%	94%	12,051	12,987	11,453	1,058	96%
New Hampshire	100%	98%	98%	97%	8,698	8,987	8,811	176	100%
New Jersey	97%	92%	89%	90%	59,729	67,029	62,254	4,445	100%
New Mexico	96%	93%	87%	88%	12,415	14,137	12,719	1,029	97%
New York	98%	93%	87%	87%	196,418	225,758	199,516	23,007	99%
North Carolina	96%	95%	94%	94%	52,192	55,483	53,418	1,698	99%
North Dakota	99%	95%	92%	95%	7,141	7,548	7,097	365	99%
Ohio	96%	94%	92%	95%	85,144	89,624	87,208	1,760	99%
Oklahoma	98%	94%	93%	95%	22,466	24,277	22,825	1,028	98%
Oregon	98%	95%	95%	98%	30,643	31,456	30,861	453	100%
Pennsylvania	92%	91%	89%	88%	73,405	83,852	77,891	4,184	98%
Rhode Island	90%	86%	80%	81%	7,635	9,487	7,751	930	92%
South Carolina	97%	94%	92%	94%	23,044	24,624	22,883	1,594	99%

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South Dakota	97%	92%	92%	87%	5,063	5,844	5,119	603	98%
Tennessee	98%	92%	89%	92%	29,749	32,585	30,877	1,317	99%
Texas	97%	93%	90%	91%	131,522	146,123	134,844	10,400	99%
Utah	97%	96%	98%	97%	10,062	10,543	10,464	72	100%
Vermont	100%	97%	97%	97%	5,503	5,692	5,607	85	100%
Virginia	95%	89%	87%	87%	40,162	46,318	40,703	4,463	98%
Washington	96%	95%	94%	97%	44,292	45,754	44,838	686	99%
West Virginia	95%	91%	89%	91%	13,396	14,750	13,880	566	98%
Wisconsin	97%	93%	90%	90%	25,531	28,511	26,023	2,259	99%
Wyoming	93%	90%	92%	95%	2,087	2,206	2,190	15	100%
U.S Territories	93%	92%	87%	85%	29,904	35,598	30,333	4,327	97%

Note: Authorized voucher figures for each agency are based on data from HUD's Resident Characteristics Report. The percentage of authorized vouchers in use in each year was determined by analysis of voucher leasing data reported by housing agencies to HUD's Voucher Management System (VMS). Unlike the utilization rates used to assess agencies' performance, these percentages are not adjusted for initial lease-up time, litigation set-asides, or other reasons. Rates would be somewhat higher with such adjustments. Leasing data for agencies in Louisiana and Mississippi that were affected by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina in 2005 may be unusually low due to reporting problems or an actual decline in leasing resulting from the dislocation of voucher holders. The number of vouchers funded in 2008 under the renewal formula was calculated using actual renewal funding awards and an estimate of the additional funds assumed to be available from excess reserves (the "offset" amount); these estimates do not take into account amounts received under the \$50 million in supplemental adjustment funds available under the law. The number of additional authorized vouchers that could be funded using remaining reserves is based on estimates of each agency's fund balance at the end of 2007, excluding the 2008 offset, and per-voucher costs for 2008.