



July 16, 2008

Housing Voucher Data for Rhode Island

- Of Rhode Island's 9,487 authorized vouchers, only 81 percent were used by families last year.
- This was an improvement over 2006, when the voucher program was underfunded and changes in funding policy undermined the effectiveness of the program. Nevertheless, 700 fewer families in Rhode Island received assistance in 2007 than in 2004.
- This year, housing agencies in Rhode Island have sufficient funds, including reserves, to assist 1,046 additional families, thereby using up to 92 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.

Agency Name	Code	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)
Rhode Island Total		90%	86%	80%	81%	7,635	9,487	7,751	930	92%
Bristol	RI019	91%	81%	76%	77%	173	226	175	22	87%
Burrillville	RI014	93%	86%	71%	71%	60	84	66	18	100%
Central Falls	RI004	99%	97%	88%	87%	482	553	518	35	100%
Coventry	RI016	92%	86%	75%	84%	233	278	241	1	87%
Cranston	RI006	99%	99%	97%	86%	220	257	161	13	68%
Cumberland	RI010	98%	84%	78%	75%	265	355	261	16	78%
East Greenwich	RI024	69%	60%	50%	50%	146	292	145	86	79%
East Providence	RI007	84%	74%	67%	69%	160	232	162	22	79%
Johnston	RI009	98%	97%	95%	90%	185	205	185	15	98%

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Lincoln	RI018	90%	87%	73%	73%	90	124	91	11	82%
Narragansett	RI026	95%	96%	95%	91%	165	182	178	4	100%
Newport	RI005	52%	55%	68%	84%	251	299	299	0	100%
North Providence	RI017	92%	88%	79%	87%	125	143	125	10	94%
Pawtucket	RI002	100%	91%	85%	91%	580	626	599	27	100%
Portsmouth	RI013	84%	75%	67%	73%	62	85	58	13	84%
Providence	RI001	96%	87%	82%	84%	1,819	2,169	1,839	113	90%
RI Housing	RI901	79%	87%	75%	76%	1,183	1,609	1,212	292	93%
Smithfield	RI020	96%	81%	72%	72%	38	53	39	14	100%
South Kingstown	RI012	88%	83%	74%	73%	101	138	101	13	83%
Tiverton	RI027	98%	98%	94%	96%	49	51	49	2	100%
Warren	RI022	98%	95%	93%	93%	186	199	192	7	100%
Warwick	RI011	72%	64%	58%	54%	187	349	189	91	80%
West Warwick	RI015	99%	97%	90%	75%	73	97	78	12	93%
Westerly	RI008	94%	82%	84%	87%	173	198	173	25	100%
Woonsocket	RI003	94%	95%	89%	92%	629	683	615	68	100%

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). 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.