

ATTACHMENT A

Resident Advisory Board Comments and Narrative-Plan Year 2018

The following comments were received regarding our PHA Plan and HCV Program in general.

Comments regarding Project-Based Vouchers:

- Great to have project-based housing
- There are very limited housing options for the lower income people.
- Regular waitlists for HCV can be long and drawn out.

Comments regarding the changes to the FSS Action Plan:

- Participants should be required to be actively seeking employment as a rule for having a voucher.
- Too many people use this program as a crutch and choose not to go out and work.

Comments regarding updates to MaineHousing's Administrative Plan:

- **On removing the requirement that probation for any disqualifying criminal charges would need to have been completed prior to the last 3 years:**
 - This is great. It really gives an opportunity for people that have changed their lives around.
- **On adopting the Maine Human Rights Act definition of 'service animal' which limits service animals to "a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability" in relation to the approval of medical deductions for the care and upkeep of the animal:**
 - A great addition to help those that truly need a service dog.
 - Many people will use this as a loophole to have a pet.
- **On the draft Emergency Transfer Plan for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking:**
 - This is an amazing opportunity for victims of domestic violence to have a safe "out" however this should be incorporated with a safety plan to ensure smooth and safe transition.
 - Should there be some kind of clause that possibly permits one move per year?

Narrative:

MaineHousing considered these comments when updating the Annual Plan, FSS Action Plan and HCV Administrative Plan:

- We have confirmed our commitment to project-based vouchers by including them as an option for those organizations who have successfully competed for Housing Trust Fund monies. We have also included VASH PBVs in a project currently in construction.

- We have emphasized assisting FSS participants in reaching a ‘living wage’ by the time they graduate from the program.
- We have safeguards in place to verify that those who request medical deductions for a service animal have a dog who meets the definition of a service animal.
- We are not able to restrict VAWA moves under the regulations. However, we are able to obtain documentation verifying DV incidents when a request for an emergency transfer is received.
- There were no public comments received during the 45-day comment period or at the public hearing.