

SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM CONTINUES TO ASSIST OVER 6,000 PARTICIPANTS ACROSS ALAMEDA COUNTY
Program remains strong despite recent HUD modifications

HAYWARD, CA. – Housing Authority of the County of Alameda (HACA) Executive Director, Ophelia Basgal, has announced that recent HUD policy changes will **not** result in HACA reducing the number of families it assists each month. Each month, HACA makes rental assistance payments to each Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher family's landlord.

"While recent HUD policy changes will require HACA to scrutinize program policies and program administration even more closely, I'm confident that HACA will be able to continue to assist the maximum number of program participants for which we are authorized by HUD," said Basgal.

On April 22, HUD implemented a new funding formula for the Section 8 Program **retroactive** to January 2004. The formula **caps** housing assistance payments for each individual Housing Authority at its August 1, 2003 level plus an inflation factor. Prior to this change, Housing Authorities were funded at the **actual cost** of their housing vouchers.

Concern about the new HUD formula has been expressed across the nation by rental owner and housing authority industry groups, tenant advocacy organizations, state governors, local elected officials and members of Congress, among others.

In the Bay Area, the Housing Authority of the City of Alameda (a separate agency from HACA, serving the City of Alameda) announced that, as a result of over-leasing and expense reporting issues, it was terminating the Section 8 assistance of 240 families, creating concern that all Housing Authorities would be following suit.

HACA has no plans to terminate any program participants as a result of the revised policy and will continue to assist additional families through normal program turnover as participants leave the program.

HUD is being encouraged to reconsider its new formula since it appears that Congress appropriated sufficient funds to pay for all current housing assistance payments.