

# Transferring from Another County

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

One of the features of the Section 8 Housing Voucher program is the option to move with continued rental assistance to another area in the United States, provided a public housing agency (PHA) administers the program in the area the unit is located. The term “*portability*” refers to the process of transferring your Section 8 tenant-based voucher (SC8) outside the jurisdiction of the *initial* PHA (the PHA that issued the voucher).

If you are a SC8 tenant-based voucher holder and are considering a move to San Mateo County, please read the frequently asked questions below:

1. **Does the Housing Authority of the County of San Mateo (HACSM) accept Section 8 voucher holders from other jurisdictions?**
  - *Yes, we do accept Section 8 voucher holders from other jurisdictions.*
2. **Is HACSM absorbing incoming portables?**
  - *No, we will be billing the Housing Authority where you received your voucher.*
3. **What are the HACSM Payment Standards?**
  - *HACSM **does not** use Payment Standards to calculate the amount of rent subsidy. As a Moving To Work (MTW) agency, HACSM has adopted a different rent calculation methodology where we apply a fixed subsidy amount based on the participant's annual adjusted income. Your subsidy is determined by HACSM's [subsidy table](#) which is calculated using your annual adjusted income and the lesser of the unit size on your voucher or the unit size you are renting. There is a minimum tenant rent of \$100.00.*
4. **How does the HACSM determine voucher size?**
  - *In issuing the voucher, HACSM will use the following guidelines:*
    - ✓ *Head of household and spouse, co-head, or partner will be issued one bedroom;*
    - ✓ *All remaining family members will be issued one bedroom per two family members regardless of gender, age, or relationship of these family members;*
5. **If I have a voucher that is more generous than the above standards, what will happen to my voucher size if I move to the HACSM?**
  - *As the receiving PHA, HACSM will adjust your voucher size to comply with the policy using the guidelines listed in #4.*
6. **What should I do if I have been approved to transfer to HACSM?**
  - *Ask your current caseworker to mail the transfer packet to the **Housing Authority of the County of San Mateo at 264 Harbor Blvd., Bldg. A, Belmont, CA 94002** or email to [csteam@smchousing.org](mailto:csteam@smchousing.org) The transfer packet should include required HUD documents and your current phone number, email (if available) and mailing address. You will be contacted once the packet is received for the next step of the process.*

**Important Note:** San Mateo County will process transfer packets as prepared by the Initial Housing Authority. Any income or family composition changes that occur during the transfer and lease-up period must be reported and processed by the Initial Housing Authority.

For more information about transferring to San Mateo County, please call (650) 802-3300 or send an email to the Client Services Team at [csteam@smchousing.org](mailto:csteam@smchousing.org).