



**CITY OF MESA HOUSING AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD
REPORT**

Date: December 11, 2008
To: City of Mesa Housing Authority Governing Board
Through: Kari Kent, Deputy City Manager
From: Carolyn D. Olson, Housing and Revitalization Director
Ray Villa, Neighborhood Services Director
Subject: Approval to Open the Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List

Purpose and Recommendation

Staff requests that the City of Mesa Housing Authority Governing Board open the Housing Choice Voucher waiting list.

Staff recommends that the Board adopt a resolution approving the opening of the waiting list to allow citizens to apply for rental assistance.

Background

As part of the requirements for continued funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of Mesa Housing Authority Governing Board must authorize the Housing Authority to open the waiting list to accept applications.

The City of Mesa Housing Authority assists individuals and families whose incomes are not sufficient to afford quality affordable housing. The City of Mesa Housing Authority receives funds annually from HUD to provide housing assistance in the form of rent subsidies to landlords on behalf of extremely low and very low-income individuals and families, as defined by federal regulations. At least 63% of the City of Mesa Housing Authority's voucher holders are elderly and/or disabled. Currently there are 1,522 vouchers available for lease, contributing more than \$10 million to the local economy annually.

Eligible families or individuals who receive a voucher can rent from any landlord who agrees to participate in the program. Rental assistance allows families and individuals to live in quality housing while still retaining enough income to adequately afford food, clothing, transportation and medical needs. The use of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher reduces the concentration of low-income families in older areas and neighborhoods.

Discussion

The Housing Choice Voucher waiting list is currently closed. At this time the list has been purged and 356 families and individuals remain on the waiting list. The Housing Authority is requesting the waiting list be opened on January 7, 2009. At that time applications will be distributed and will be accepted.

The Housing Authority also requests that the waiting list remain open for an indefinite period of time to adequately gauge the need for housing assistance in the jurisdiction.

There are two preferences on the waiting list: 1) Living in the City of Mesa; and 2) Working in the City of Mesa. Upon verification of these two preferences those families will move to the top of the list for assistance.

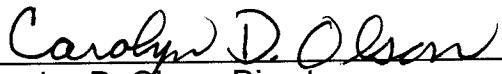
Alternatives

Alternative One: Approve the City of Mesa Housing Authority request to open the waiting list on January 7, 2009, remaining open for an indefinite period of time.

Alternative Two: Deny the request to open the waiting list. If the request to open the waiting list is denied, when the current list of 356 names is exhausted we would be unable to distribute Housing Choice Vouchers.

Fiscal Impact

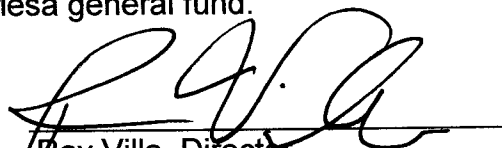
There will be no fiscal impact on the City of Mesa general fund.



Carolyn D. Olson, Director
Housing and Revitalization



Kari Kent
Deputy City Manager



Ray Villa, Director
Neighborhood Services

HGB Resolution _____

A Resolution of the City of Mesa Housing Authority Governing Board
Of the City of Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona authorizing
approval to
Open the Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List

Be it Resolved by the City of Mesa Housing Authority Governing Board:

Section 1: That the waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher program will open at 7:30 a.m. on January 7, 2009 and remain open for an indefinite period of time, until the City of Mesa Housing Authority Governing Board shall close the waiting list.

Passed and Adopted by the City of Mesa Housing Authority Governing Board of the City of Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona, this 11th day of December 2008.

Approved

Scott Smith, Chairman
City of Mesa Housing Authority
Governing Board