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HCV Mission: To provide safe, decent and sanitary housing conditions for very low-income families, and to manage resources efficiently.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER **MAR/APR 2021**

COVID-19 UPDATE

Orange County Housing and Community Development will continue our commitment to keep you informed of any changes in service to you as quickly as possible. Here are the most recent updates:

Office Accessibility

Chapel Hill and Hillsborough offices are closed for in-person appointments. Drop boxes are located outside and inside the office building. To schedule a phone or video appointment, call 919-245-2490 or email hcv@orangecountync.gov.

Eviction Moratorium

The CDC enacted an eviction moratorium that applies to all residential rental properties in the U.S., in effect **from September 4, 2020 to June 30, 2021**, which prevents anyone from being evicted for non-payment of rent. In order to be covered under the moratorium, just provide a signed copy of the following declaration to your landlord: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/EvictionDeclare_d508.pdf.

Please understand that this moratorium does not apply to residents who are: 1) Engaging in criminal activity while on the premises; 2) threatening the health or safety of other residents; 3) damaging or posing an immediate and significant risk of damage to property; 4) violating any applicable building code, health ordinance, or similar regulation relating to health and safety; or 5) violating any other contractual obligation, other than the timely payment of rent or similar housing-related payment (such as non/late payment of fees, penalties, or interest).

Furthermore, please keep in mind that this moratorium does not erase your back-rent. You will still have to repay your rent and other fee arrears after the moratorium has been lifted. For the most updated information please check <https://www.legalaidnc.org/get-help/self-help-library/housing/cdc-eviction-moratorium>.

Emergency Housing Assistance

Emergency Housing Assistance provides funds to help with security and utility deposits. Upon OCHCD approval, assistance can be provided for other urgent housing-related costs (e.g., moving costs), especially for hard-to-house individuals and families, such as large families with children, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and people with justice system involvement.

Contact the Housing Helpline:
919-245-2655 or housinghelp@orangecountync.gov

DO YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES TO REPORT?

Please report any changes for your rent determination:

- Change in family, work or income status.
- New phone number
- New email address

To expedite a loss of employment incomes go to: www.orangecountync.gov/housing/participant/information - complete step 1 and 2 as instructed.

Winter Recap

- ❖ Last year, Orange County Housing Authority created a new voucher plan targeting our county’s unhoused population. For the first time in years we opened our waitlist to certain preference categories: residents experiencing homelessness via the following preference categories: participants in Orange County’s Permanent Supportive Housing Move On Program, and residents referred through the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness’ and Continuum of Care’s HOME Committee, and eligible participants of local Rapid Rehousing programs.

Since last July, OCHA has issued vouchers to 150 residents, 53 of whom have now attained stable housing!

- ❖ On February 23rd, 2021, OCHCD participated in a “Landlord Roundtable” hosted by The Chamber of Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro as part of its “Big Bold Ideas” project.



The Chamber

Our goal was to recognize good-citizen owners and property managers whom have worked constructively with our department and the HCV program in the past, to inform the owner community about program procedures, and to recruit new owner participants in our HCV program. We look forward to continuing to strengthen community relationships, and we are tentatively planning to host another roundtable/briefing this summer!

Opportunities for OC Residents

- Know your resident rights with free Fair Housing trainings for both tenants and landlords, sponsored by the Fair Housing Project (Legal Aid of NC). Check the following link for upcoming online trainings:
<https://www.fairhousingnc.org/events/>
- Goodwill University is now offering training classes and workshops for career development. For further information, visit
<https://goodwillsp.org/train/goodwill-university/>
- If you would like to receive similar updates on a regular basis, please provide your email address at the following link. By doing so you will hear of professional, educational and social opportunities in the most timely manner possible!

Big Bold Ideas

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