

1. How do I apply for public housing with NYCHA?

Apply online at <https://selfserve.nycha.info> from any device with Internet access; or you may file online from any of our Walk-in Centers.

2. Do I need to submit documents with the NYCHA public housing application?

You do not need to submit any document with your application. The information you provide will be verified at the time of your eligibility interview.

If you apply as a 'Victim of Domestic Violence', first submit your application. Then request a VDV Document Review form from our Customer Contact Center at (718) 707-7771, or log into NYCHA Self-Service Portal (<https://selfserve.nycha.info>) and request an upgrade.

3. How do I know if NYCHA received my public housing application?

Applicants will receive a letter from NYCHA within 30 days from application submission. If you do not receive the letter, contact our Customer Contact Center at (718) 707-7771 from 8AM – 5PM, Monday through Friday.

4. How can I check the status of my application?

The Head of Household listed on the application can register on NYCHA's Self-Service Portal (<https://selfserve.nycha.info>) and check their application status at any time.

5. Can I update my application from the Self-Service Portal?

Yes, you can update information related to your application including home and mailing address, phone numbers, email, income, borough of preference, need for an accessible apartment and reason for applying on the Self-Service Portal (<https://selfserve.nycha.info>)

6. How often should I file or renew my application?

Your application is active for two years. Until you are called for an eligibility interview, you must renew your application on the Self-Service Portal (<https://selfserve.nycha.info>) every 24 months to remain on the waiting list. After the renewal you will retain the filing date of the original application.

7. What is the difference between Public Housing and Section 8?

Public housing apartments are owned and operated by NYCHA. More than 400,000 New Yorkers reside in one of the 178,895 apartments located around the five boroughs of New York City. The public housing waiting list has over 160,000 applications. The Section 8 Program enables eligible persons to rent privately owned apartments. Housing assistance payments are made to the private landlords.

Please be aware that the Section 8 waiting list is presently closed to new applicants.

8. Can I be on the waiting list for both Public Housing and Section 8?

Yes, you can apply for both programs. However, once you rent an apartment with one program your housing priority in the other program is significantly reduced

9. Should I be a New York City resident to apply for public housing?

No, you do not have to be a New York City resident to apply. However, due to NYCHA's long waiting list, available apartments are offered to applicants who live or work in New York City first.

10. Should I be a United States citizen to apply for public housing?

No, you do not have to be a citizen of the United States but at least one member of your household must be a United States citizen or a non-citizen with eligible immigration status (e.g. Permanent Resident, Refugee/Asylum statuses).

11. Is there a minimum age to apply for public housing?

You must be 18 years or older or an emancipated minor to apply for public housing.

12. Do I need children living with me to apply for public housing?

No, single adults are eligible to apply for public housing.

13. How old do I need to be to live in a public housing development for seniors?

You or your co-head of household must be at least 62 years or older and all other household members must be 62 years of age or older.

14. Can I list a specific development as my preference on my application?

No, you may not apply for a specific development. You may only list a 1st and 2nd choice of borough (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island) on your application. If you are found eligible for public housing after your eligibility interview, you will be placed on a borough or development waiting list depending upon your priority and bedroom size required.

15. Should I have a source of income to apply for public housing?

No, you are not required to have income to be eligible to apply.

16. Is there a maximum income to apply for public housing?

Yes, NYCHA uses income limits developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These limits are revised every year.

17. Does NYCHA include assets as income when determining eligibility for public housing?

The market value of the asset is not included as income. However, the income yield from the asset, including interests and/or dividends, will be included.

18. What changes should I report to NYCHA after I apply for public housing?

Any change related to your contact information, family composition or income should be reported using the Self-Service Portal (<https://selfserve.nycha.info>). For any question, please contact the Customer Contact Center Customer at (718) 707-7771.

19. What happens once I apply?

The information provided in your latest public housing application determines when you are called for an Eligibility Interview. A computer system selects your application based on borough choice, apartment size, housing priority and date of application. Because of the extremely large size of the waiting list, low apartment turnover and vacancy rate we cannot estimate when we will invite you to the eligibility interview.

20. How much will my rent be?

Your NYCHA rent is based on 30% of your household's anticipated gross annual income minus deductions. HUD regulations allow deductions of \$480 for each dependent, \$400 for elderly family or a person with a disability, and some medical deductions for households headed by an elderly person or a person with disabilities.

21. Are utilities included in my rent?

Most developments include gas and electric with rent. If your development does not include utilities, you are responsible for paying them directly. You will receive a utility allowance which is deducted from your monthly rent.

22. What happens after I receive notification of my placement to a certified waiting list?

If, after attending the eligibility interview, NYCHA finds you preliminarily eligible for Public Housing it will notify you by mail of your placement on a waitlist (either borough or development). When a suitable apartment becomes available, NYCHA performs a criminal background check (CBC) for every household member 16 years and older. If everyone passes, NYCHA offers you an apartment. If any household member fails the CBC, NYCHA will not offer an apartment but, instead, send a letter with instructions on what to do next. If you do not respond, your application will no longer be considered.

23. Does NYCHA have apartments for people with disabilities?

Yes, NYCHA has accessible (504) apartments designed for people with mobility impairments, physical disabilities and/or special medical needs.