



Housing Services Governing Board Report

Date: September 8, 2016

To: Housing Services Governing Board

Through: Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager
Ruth Giese, Community Services Director

From: Elizabeth Morales, Housing and Community Development Director

Subject: Housing Services

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to present and request approval from the Housing Services Governing Board to open the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Waiting List for applications.

Background and Discussion

The City of Mesa Housing Services division is requesting to open the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) waiting list in the next 60 days after exhausting the 2013 waitlist.

The City of Mesa Housing Services Resident Advisory Board (RAB) met on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, and approved the opening of the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Waiting List for applications.

Attached is a document that will provide an overview of the process, accommodations available for equal access to those with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency, and steps that will be taken for outreach and to inform potential applicants of the waitlist opening.

The last opening of the waitlist, in May 2013 was a success with over 4,000 applications received in two days. This was the first time that the City of Mesa offered an online application. Staff took significant steps to ensure applicants had equal access, support and assistance to submit the Housing Choice Voucher Pre-Application. The City received no complaints and many accolades from partnering nonprofits and landlords who hosted waitlist opening parties to assist clients complete the housing application. It is with this experience that City staff is striving to make additional improvements so that all persons who wish to apply can apply without unnecessary barriers or difficulties.

Of the 4,000 applications received, housing staff:

- Contacted all 4,000 applicants at least annually for updates,
- Reviewed all applications for eligibility,
- Approximately 500 were leased-up in 3 years, with 200 of those in the last 12 months.

Requested Council Approval

The City of Mesa Housing Services would like approval from the Housing Services Governing Board to open the Housing Choice Voucher waiting list for applications according to the City of Mesa Housing Administrative Plan and Policies.

Fiscal Impact

By leasing all our allocated vouchers, this will increase the City of Mesa Housing Services funding and make us eligible for maximum funding for the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) and Administrative Fees to run our programs.