

## Homeless Preference for Housing Choice Vouchers

### Memorandum of Understanding between the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA)

**This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** is to establish the roles entered into between; (a.) MSHDA; and (b.) \_\_\_\_\_ HARA, representing \_\_\_\_\_ county/counties. **WHEREAS**, the HARA agrees to uphold the integrity of the Program Code which validates that clients have met the criteria outlined below. **WHEREAS**, the HARA agrees to not release the Program Code to any clients. The HARA also agrees to not release the Program Code to any staff or individuals not directly involved in the input of the code. **THEREFORE**, the Key Partners agree that it is in the best interests of all concerned to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding.

#### I. DEFINITION OF HOMELESS

Applicants must meet criteria one of the following categories:

##### 1) Literally Homeless

Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
- (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately-operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
- (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

##### 2) Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence

Any individual or family who:

- (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
- (ii) Has no other residence; **and**
- (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

#### II. CRITERIA FOR HOMELESS PREFERENCE

- 1) Applicant must meet all Housing Choice Voucher requirements.
- 2) Applicant household is willing to engage in a jointly developed plan supporting housing stability.
- 3) Applicant housed for short term assistance through MSHDA Emergency Solutions Grant, MSHDA Tenant Based Rental Assistance, or any other transitional housing program (less than two years) are still considered homeless.
- 4) Applicants who are homeless at time of application but subsequently housed with a permanent housing subsidy (ie PSH or S+C) are no longer considered homeless. At the time their name is pulled off of the waiting list, they would not be eligible at that time for the homeless preference and their name will be removed from the waiting list.
- 5) Rural communities that have no active sheltering organizations as part of their CoC's may elect to recognize Doubled Up (Imminent Risk) as homeless. Communities must provide official notification to their assigned Homeless Assistance Specialist that their Continuum has voted and approved this additional homeless criterion. Doubled Up (Imminent Risk) is defined as: (i) residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) no subsequent residence has been identified; and (iii) the individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.

