

How Does the Bloomington Housing Authority Help the Homeless?

The BHA recognizes the seriousness of homelessness. We would like to share with you how our programs help address the homeless issue.

The causes of homelessness are complex and include family conflict, family violence, abuse, substance abuse and mental illness.

While the BHA does not provide emergency housing programs, we have, within the prescribed HUD guidelines for both the public housing and Section 8 programs, used the program regulations available to us to assist homeless families in the following ways:

For the **Public Housing Program**: The BHA owns and operates 310 units of various bedroom sizes of affordable housing. Homeless families are given top priority in the application process. If the public housing program cannot house a homeless family currently on our waitlist within 60 days, we will issue them a Section 8 Voucher. **Remember:** the BHA may not be taking applications for specific size units depending on length of waitlist.

Through our **Section 8 Voucher Rent Assistance Program**, we assist homeless families in the following ways:

1. We administer 60 Homeless Vouchers for Veterans Assistance Supportive Housing (VASH) Program. The Veterans Administration provides intensive case management for VASH participants and makes all referrals to the program. Our staff then qualifies the Veteran for the program, issues the Voucher and inspects the proposed unit for housing quality standards compliance.
2. We provide/administer 22 Vouchers to Middleway House - The Rise which serves victims of domestic violence.
3. We provide 5 Vouchers to Crawford House which serves chronically homeless.
4. We provide 26 Vouchers to two low income senior citizen sites with supportive services.
5. We provide 12 Single Room Occupancy Vouchers in partnership with Centerstone for homeless mentally ill residents.
6. We provide 7 Vouchers in cooperation with Indiana Department of Child Services for a family unification program. These vouchers are used to prevent homelessness in families with children.

Families must meet [HUD's definition of homeless](#).

For more information about families experiencing homelessness, refer to [PIH Notice 2013-15\(HA\)](#) as well and the Q & A supplement.