

ANAHEIM HOUSING AUTHORITY (AHA)
SECTION 8 - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Status Questions

1. How will I know if my application was accepted or rejected in the lottery?

On May 11, 2023, all applicants were notified of their lottery selection status via email. The notification was sent to the email address that applicants provided when they applied. Please check your spam or junk folder if you don't see the email in your inbox.

Applicants may also check their selection status through our website:
housingportal.anaheim.net/AHAStatusCheck

2. I tried checking my selection status through the website, but my name didn't appear. Why?

The status check website, housingportal.anaheim.net/AHAStatusCheck, asks applicants to enter their exact first name, last name, and the birth date they listed on their pre-application. If you have multiple names, enter the exact name you provided when you applied. If you don't remember, try entering each one individually or both together.

If it still cannot find you, press the "Try Different Search Button"

Example: My name is John J Lucky Smith

Enter First Name: John Enter Last Name: Lucky Smith

3. Will I receive a letter in the mail about the Section 8 lottery determination?

*No. Applicants will only be notified of their selection status by email *unless reasonable accommodation was requested.

If you were admitted to the waiting list:

4. When will I receive a Section 8 voucher?

At this time, you have only been placed on the Section 8 waiting list. Being added to the waiting list does not mean that you will receive a voucher right away or that housing assistance is immediately available. You must wait until it is your turn to be selected from the waiting list and then successfully complete the eligibility process to receive housing assistance.

5. **How long will I have to wait to be selected from the waiting list?**

The wait time for being called depends on several factors, such as voucher availability, funding, applicant placement, and preferences. For these reasons, AHA is unable to provide an estimated timeframe for when you will be selected. While some applicants may be selected immediately, others may have to wait for several years.

6. **How do I check the status of my pre-application?**

To check the status of your pre-application, please visit housingportal.anaheim.net/AHAStatusCheck/

This link will show your status on any waiting list you may have applied to with AHA. To protect your private information, AHA will not provide your waiting list status over the phone.

7. **My pre-application was accepted to the waiting list. Does that mean I am guaranteed to receive housing assistance or that I automatically qualify for the program?**

No. Your pre-application only placed you on the waiting list, but you have not been selected or determined eligible for the program yet. You must wait until you are called to go through the eligibility process.

8. **How will I know when I'm selected from the waiting list?**

Once your name has reached the top of the waiting list, AHA will contact you via U.S. mail. Therefore, it is extremely important to update your pre-application if you move or have a new mailing address.

IMPORTANT: your name will be removed from the waiting list if your mail is sent back to our office as undeliverable or if you fail to respond to any mail sent to you by AHA by the established due date.

9. **How do I update or make changes to my pre-application?**

Please submit the [Pre-Application Update Form](#) to AHA at 201 S. Anaheim Blvd. Suite 203, Anaheim, CA 92805, or email AHAINfo@anaheim.net. Please make sure that the form is signed.

IMPORTANT: It is the responsibility of the applicant to keep their contact information updated with AHA. Failure to do so may result in removal from the waiting list.

10. What is the eligibility process like?

Once you're selected from the waiting list, AHA will send you an eligibility packet by U.S. mail. You must complete and return it with the requested documents by the set due date. When the packet is returned, AHA will verify the preferences you checked on your pre-application and review information on your family income, assets, and family composition. You may be asked to submit additional information during this time. AHA will then verify all your information to determine your eligibility.

If you are determined eligible, you will be required to attend a briefing session where you will be issued a Section 8 voucher.

11. Will I have to prove that I live or work in Anaheim or that I am a veteran if I receive a preference?

You will have to provide documentation to verify that you meet the preferences you declared at the time that you are going through the eligibility process.

If you were not admitted to the waiting list:

12. Why was I not placed on the Section 8 waiting list?

The Section 8 program is highly competitive, and unfortunately, not all applicants can be selected. We received over 21,000 applications, but only 10,000 slots were available.

The selection process was based on a random lottery performed within each preference group. As a reminder, veterans and applicants who live or work in Anaheim received a preference.

13. I was not placed on the Section 8 waiting list, what happens next?

If you were not placed on the Section 8 waiting list, then AHA is not able to provide housing assistance to you at this time.

If you currently live or work in Anaheim, then you may review and apply to AHA's Project-Based Voucher (PBV) housing opportunities [here](#):

<https://www.anaheim.net/761/Project-Based-Voucher-Waiting-Lists>

If you do not live or work in Anaheim, we encourage you to explore other housing options available in your area, such as your local housing authority.

If you are currently experiencing homelessness, you may call 2-1-1 for assistance connecting to critical social services such as housing, job placement, food, and health insurance, among other benefits.

14. When will the Section 8 waiting list open again?

AHA will reopen its waiting list when it has nearly completed reviewing the 10,000 recently added. The time frame can vary significantly depending on program funding and voucher availability.

General Questions:

15. Can you give me more information about the 2023 Section 8 waiting list lottery?

The Anaheim Housing Authority accepted pre-applications to be placed on its Section 8 lottery waiting list from March 6, 2023, through Friday, April 14, 2023. Anyone was able to apply throughout the time the waiting list was opened, however, Veterans and individuals who lived or worked in Anaheim received a preference. There were only 10,000 slots available on the waiting list.

After the application period closed, a computerized lottery in each preference group determined what 10,000 pre-applications were placed on the waiting list.

16. What is the Section 8 program and how can it help me pay my rent?

The Section 8 program, also known as the Housing Choice Voucher program, is a federally funded program to assist low-income households pay their rent. Typically, a household that receives this type of assistance pays about 30% of their income towards rent and the Section 8 program pays the rest.

The Anaheim Housing Authority does not discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristic (including race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, or age) in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities. Federally assisted housing programs are available to all otherwise eligible individuals regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

