

**IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE: HUD COMES THROUGH WITH ENOUGH EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS NATIONWIDE AND TIED TO THE REDUCTION OF THE PAYMENT STANDARDS, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY WILL NOT HAVE TO TERMINATE HUNDREDS OF SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER HOLDERS.**

8/17/2009

The Housing Authority of the County of Monterey (HACM) is grateful to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Honorable Shaun Donovan, and members of his senior staff in Section 8, HUD Financial Management Center and the San Francisco Regional HUD Office for hearing our crisis of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher funding shortfall. Though Congressional Officials acknowledged there was little that they could do, HUD, through a series of brainstorming sessions with over 500 Public Housing Authorities, realized the funding need was nationwide and the contingency fund was not going to be enough to prevent terminations of existing Section 8 Tenant Based Housing Choice Vouchers. Though some terminations did occur at PHAs, enough emergency funding could be found coupled with the HUD directed reductions in Payment Standards to sustain the majority of the PHAs, such as HACM, to be able to sustain the current level of Vouchers through end of the year without having to terminate existing vouchers. If Congress does fully fund the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program in Fiscal Year 2010, the HACM will be able to gradually raise the payment standards to reduce the burden on the Voucher holders in Monterey County. Hopefully, as we negotiate with HUD, we may be able to raise the "Payment Standard" before the end of the year, depending on the timely Congressional Budget approval in October of this year.

HACM is also grateful to the Housing Resource Center and Executive Director Marilyn Dorman who provide emergency rental funding to help those voucher holders who will have difficulty meeting their portion of the rent on a temporary basis. The Director of the Department of Social Services and Employment, Elliot Robinson and his staff Barber Verba have also offered their assistance and is looking into other possible sources of emergency funds to cover, on a short term basis, rental help to clients who qualify up to 3 to 4 months. This coordinated effort between HUD, HACM, the Housing Resource Center and the County Department of Social Services and Employment has allowed the Housing Authority not to have to terminate any of the existing Vouchers.

**HACM will keep the public informed on a weekly basis to the press  
and HACMs press release will be available on its Web-site:  
[www.hamonterey.org](http://www.hamonterey.org)**