

**IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY, IN COORDINATION WITH HUD, WILL INCREASE THE PAYMENT STANDARDS OF THE SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER HOLDERS EFFECTIVE 1 DEC – PROVIDING INCREASED ASSISTANCE TO VOUCHER HOLDERS.**

11/20/2009

**Congressional Officials previously acknowledged that the Federal Funding Shortages for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 Housing Choice Housing Voucher Program (HCV) would likely force many Public Housing Authorities such as the Housing Authority of Monterey County (HACM) to reduce the currently issued vouchers to a level that can be funded by the federal funds available. HACM reduced the payment standard in an effort to avoid termination of vouchers. Understanding the impact this reduction in benefits would have on our clients, HACM continued to work with HUD to address the local effects of this NATIONWIDE shortfall. At the direction of the Board of Commissioners, HACM has worked jointly with HUD San Francisco and HUD Washington D.C. to receive the necessary waiver which will allow HACM to increase the payment standard effective 1 Dec, 2009. While HUD is still trying to secure adequate funding for the FY2010 budget for the Section 8 HCV program, HACM has decided to take the risk early. We are betting that Congress will do the right thing.**

**Other actions HACM has already implemented to minimize the potential number of tenant HCV terminations will remain in place: denying portability of vouchers to higher cost counties, working with the HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER and County Social Services (if funding is available ) to help clients affected by the increase rents to access temporary funding to assist with the rental shortfall for 3 to 4 months (if they qualify) and allowing attrition to reduce the number of vouchers currently funded. This program is an earmarked Federally Funded program and other program monies cannot be used to support the Section 8 HCV Program.**

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