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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HACLA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER WAITING LIST LOTTERY

LOS ANGELES, CA – OCTOBER 17, 2022 – As hundreds of thousands of Angelenos begin their applications for the Housing Choice Voucher (“Section 8”) waiting list, the Housing Rights Center (HRC) reminds tenants and landlords that California law protects the right to pay rent with vouchers and other forms of public assistance.

The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) will accept applications to join the waiting list to receive a Section 8 voucher starting Monday, October 17, 2022 until Sunday, October 30, 2022 at 5:00 pm. Applications must be submitted online at hacla.hcvlist.org, and a working email address is required to apply. Visit hacla.hcvlist.org/Home/ResourceList to find locations offering application assistance.

“For many tenants, the long wait for assistance is just the beginning. Once they have a voucher in hand, it can be incredibly difficult to find housing because of widespread, discriminatory practices designed to unlawfully screen out applicants with Section 8,” said Chancela Al-Mansour, Executive Director of the Housing Rights Center.

The California Fair Employment & Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination based on tenants’ “source of income,” including Section 8 vouchers. Most landlords are prohibited from refusing to accept vouchers or charging a higher rent to applicants who receive public subsidies. And if a landlord uses an income standard to screen for tenant eligibility (e.g. “3 times the rent”), it must be applied only to the tenant’s contribution to the rent. Still, HRC receives a steady stream of calls reporting source of income discrimination each month.

HACLA is expecting more than 360,000 applications, but only 30,000 households will be randomly selected to gain a spot on the waiting list to receive a voucher. Applicants can expect to be notified of their application status by December 1, 2022.

The Housing Choice Voucher program, known as “Section 8,” is a federally funded program that provides rent subsidy payments directly to private landlords on behalf of participating low-income families and individuals. Section 8 allows participants to choose any housing unit that meets the qualifications of the program and passes a mandatory inspection program, which may include their current residence.



In 2020, HRC launched a campaign to identify, educate, and hold accountable landlords and property management companies in Los Angeles County that routinely discriminate against Section 8 voucher holders. If you believe you have experienced discrimination based on your source of income, or any other characteristic protected by fair housing laws, please contact the Housing Rights Center at 1-800-477-5977 or info@housingrightscenter.org. Learn more about your fair housing rights at www.housingrightscenter.org.

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The Housing Rights Center is a non-profit organization established in 1968 to actively support and promote equal opportunity and freedom of residence to all persons without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, familial status, disability, marital status, ancestry, age, source of income, or other characteristics protected by law. HRC engages in activities including outreach/education, investigation/testing and legal advocacy to identify barriers to fair housing in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and to help counteract and eliminate discriminatory housing practices.