

# Your Right to Relocate

The facts about vouchers and portability



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*The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, familial status or disability.*

### For more information:

VHDA Main Number	877-VHDA-123
Español	877-843-2123
TDD/TTY	804-783-6705 / 888-451-4810
Southwest Virginia Office	800-447-5145
Website	vhda.com

VHDA helps Virginians with low- to moderate-incomes buy their own homes. We also help finance affordable, quality rental housing, and we help people with disabilities and the elderly make their homes more livable. We teach free homeownership classes, and partner with other lenders, developers and community service organizations to help put quality housing within the reach of every Virginian. And, we do it all without using a single taxpayer dollar.

**VHDA. We'll make it affordable.**  
You'll make it a home.

**"I'm moving to another state ... can I take my voucher with me?"**

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**"Who should I talk to about transferring my voucher to another neighborhood?"**

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**"Are Housing Choice Vouchers good anywhere in the country?"**

One of the most basic rights of living in America is the freedom to move so you can pursue new opportunities. The federal government has created a way for you to participate in the Housing Choice Voucher program in locations where you can:

- Maximize your choice of properties.
- Live in a desirable school district.
- Be closer to family members.
- Find greater access to public services, childcare providers and shopping.
- Relocate for employment.

## What is Portability?

Portability is your right to transfer your voucher and rent a place to live that is outside the local housing authority's jurisdiction. The home can be anywhere in the United States where there is a housing agency operating a Housing Choice Voucher program.



## How Portability Works

- Start by contacting your local housing office to determine your eligibility for the Portability option.
- Some Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) agencies require that you live at your current residence (known as "within your initial agency's jurisdiction") for 12 months before you become eligible for Portability.
- You must meet the income requirements in the jurisdiction to which you're hoping to move.
- If you are eligible for Portability, the housing agency in your desired new location (known as the "receiving agency") is contacted on your behalf and advised of your intentions to relocate to their area.
- The receiving housing agency determines whether they will bill VHDA for your housing costs, or absorb your housing costs into their own program. They will discuss the payment and subsidy standards with you.
- There is one simple form — a Request for Tenancy Approval — you will need to submit to the receiving agency before the end of your current voucher term.

- If you would like an extension on your housing voucher, you may submit your request to the receiving housing agency before the voucher's expiration date. The receiving housing agency's policies will be followed.



## Important Terms

Each housing agency serves a specific geographic **jurisdiction** that is its area of operation.

The **initial housing agency** issues a voucher to an applicant family or participant family who wishes to relocate via Portability.

The **receiving housing agency** is located in the jurisdiction where the applicant family or participant family wishes to relocate.