

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PREKATRINA HANO PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS FROM THE BIG 4

WARNING- This FAQ was written by New Orleans Legal Assistance in December 2007 after consultation with HUD, HANO, and other housing advocates. Facts in it may change over time! If you have other questions about this flyer or other housing concerns, please call the Housing Law Unit of New Orleans Legal Assistance at 504-529-1000.

1. What are the big 4 sites ? The big 4 sites are Lafitte, B.W. Cooper, St. Bernard, and C.J. Peete. If you lived in one of these sites at the time of Hurricane Katrina, keep reading this flyer. If you did NOT live in one of the big 4, stop reading this flyer and check our other set of frequently asked questions for other public housing residents.
2. I used to live in public housing in New Orleans, but now I have a DVP (Disaster Voucher Program) voucher. When will my DVP voucher end? *Unless there is some funding left over, the DVP vouchers will end June 30, 2008. Do not get this date confused with any other deadlines you might have heard about.*
3. I heard that I might have to start paying a share of rent for my DVP voucher; is that true? *Yes. In January of 2008 everyone on DVP will have to start paying a tenant portion of rent. Your tenant portion is approximately 30% of your income. If you are on DVP and already pay some money in rent, you will still have to pay that, PLUS your tenant portion of rent.*
4. I got kicked off of DVP by another housing authority. Can I get any assistance? *If you were kicked off of DVP you should call New Orleans Legal Assistance at 504-529-1000 ext. 223. If you were terminated recently you should call right now!*
5. How long will HANO offer relocation assistance to families returning to public housing? *Right now they still have funding, but it depends on what money they get in the future. Also, HANO may not pay moving costs if you are already back in New Orleans.*
6. Is there any relocation assistance for people who want to move back to New Orleans, but aren't going back to public housing? *Yes. FEMA has some relocation mone but the program is set to end Feb. 28, 2009. It may be extended. Call FEMA's helpline at 1-800-621-FEMA for more information.*
7. What sort of assistance will I get after DVP ends? *It depends on where you used to live before the storm. If you used to live in Lafitte, B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete or St. Bernard, you should be eligible for a Tenant Protection Voucher (TPV). Look below for answers to more questions that you might have.*

Tenant Protection and Public Housing for people who used to live in Lafitte, B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete, or St. Bernard- this set of FAQs only applies to people who lived in Lafitte, B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete, or St. Bernard before Katrina.

8. I hear people talk about the “Big Four” housing developments. What are they? *The “Big Four” are Lafitte, B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete and St. Bernard. They are the four large housing sites that HUD and HANO closed after Katrina and plan to demolish and redevelop.*

9. When will my DVP voucher become a Tenant Protection Voucher (TPV)? *HANO got approval for Tenant Protection Vouchers in mid September 2007. HANO says that they have the procedures in place and will start switching people over to Tenant Protection Vouchers soon. If you are not currently living in HANO public housing or on a Disaster Voucher (DVP), then you should contact HANO immediately at 504-362-4210 and ask for a tenant protection voucher. Be sure to make it clear that you want a tenant protection voucher and let them know you lived in one of the big 4 sites.*

10. What is a Tenant Protection Voucher? *It is a special type of voucher HUD gives to tenants whose units are being demolished and redeveloped.*

11. Is a Tenant Protection Voucher like Section 8? *Yes, it is more like a Section 8 voucher than DVP.*

12. If I used to live in Lafitte, B.W. Cooper, C.J. Peete or St. Bernard, but after the hurricane I moved to another public housing development, can I have a Tenant Protection Voucher if I want one? *Yes.*

13. If I am eligible for a Tenant Protection Voucher, but I do not want it and want to stay in public housing while my pre-Katrina site is under redevelopment, can I still go back to the redeveloped project? *Yes. However, redevelopment takes a long time (sometimes over 5 years) and most redeveloped projects have fewer units available for public housing residents. There will also be new qualifications and priorities for people to move back into the redeveloped units at most of the developments.*

14. When redevelopment is over, will I lose my Tenant Protection Voucher if I do not return to the old development? *No, you do not have to come back. You can choose to keep your voucher instead.*

15. How long will I have to get a Tenant Protection Voucher? *As of December 2007 when we wrote this, it was unclear when the deadline would be. If you are not housed already with HANO, call HANO right away at 504-362-4210 to ask for one. If you are in public housing with HANO or DVP with HANO, then you should be contacted by HANO within the next few months.*

16. I used to live in one of the Big Four, but I am still living in another state now. I want to come home now! What do I need to do? *Call HANO at 504-362-4210 to get your Tenant Protection Voucher issued by HANO, not by your evacuation housing authority. Be sure to talk*

to someone at your current housing authority and find out what they need you to do before you move home. Tell your current housing authority what you want to do in writing and try to get them to tell you in writing what you need to do.

17. Can I come back to New Orleans and get public housing instead of a voucher? *There are a few units available. Call Ms. Cormier at Iberville(504-529-1591) for details.*

18. My housing authority in Houston told me that I will get a regular Section 8 voucher when DVP ends, and I'll have to wait for a year to go home. Is this true? *You do not have to get a regular Section 8 voucher and stay in Houston, or any other place, if you don't want to. You can come back to New Orleans, get a Tenant Protection Voucher issued by HANO, and find a house in New Orleans. Be sure to talk to someone at your current housing authority and find out what they need you to do before you move home. Call 504-362-4210 at the HANO Section 8 office for details.*

19. I am still living away from New Orleans on a DVP voucher, and I want to stay where I am. What should I do? *Call your current housing authority and tell them what you want to do.*

20. I am from one of the Big Four and missed the deadline to lease up for DVP. What should I do? *You should call 504-362-4210 at HANO to make sure you get a Tenant Protection Voucher as soon as possible. You can also go in person to the voucher office at 501 N. Galvez Street, New Orleans, La.*

Special Question for people who've been through redevelopment before

21. I'm originally from a site that was redeveloped long before Katrina. Right before the storm I lived in one of the Big Four. I heard that my first housing site was redeveloped with some tax credit units. I can't afford these units without a voucher. If I want to return to my first development, but need that tenant protection voucher to afford a tax credit unit, can we speed up the process so I can get a tenant protection voucher by either December 2007 or January 2008? *HUD in Washington, D.C. says it is OK. You can get a Tenant Protection Voucher in time and tax credit units are required to take vouchers. HANO should start to issue the Tenant Protection Vouchers very soon.*

Special Question ONLY for Former Lafitte Residents

22. I used to live in one of the units being rehabbed in Lafitte, but I would rather get a Tenant Protection Voucher than move back to my old unit. Can I still get a Tenant Protection Voucher? *Yes! HANO got vouchers based on the total of units at Lafitte before the storm. The units that are rehabbed are temporary units. Eventually these units will also be redeveloped. It is your choice whether you turn down a rehabbed temporary unit or accept it.*

23. What if my question is not answered by this list? *You should call New Orleans Legal Assistance at 529-1000. We will see if we can find an answer for you.*