

Interview with Leah Lobban at Manhattan Housing Authority (7/10 @10:45 am)

Leah Lobban, Public Housing Manager

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Briana Carrillo, Community Solutions for Affordable Housing, interviewer

**1. Is there a comprehensive housing guide for Section 8?**

Manhattan Housing Authority (MHA) only covers two counties. The North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (<http://www.ncfhaaa.com/>) located just across the street, serves 18 counties. Due to the dislocated nature of groups who own/manage Section 8 housing, it is difficult to provide a master list of Section 8 housing in Manhattan.

-walked through how to find city/state specific information on HUD's website for Section 8 housing

([https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/pha/contacts/ks](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/pha/contacts/ks))

-Private landlords can choose to accept Section 8 or not. Due to this fluidity of Section 8 properties, MHA does not keep an internal log of Section 8 properties. MHA offers a list of all their public housing properties, which can be found here <http://www.mhaks.com/Communities.html>. In total, MHA owns 202 public housing units.

**2. What's the average quantity of applicants who are waiting for a given month based upon last year?**

Annually, MHA has 197 general vouchers to distribute. An additional 55 are designated specifically to veterans (MHA works with the VA to allocate these). Thus, MHA has 252 vouchers maximum at any given time. As of July 10, 2018, there are at least 350 applicants on the Section 8 waitlist. This operates on a 2-year time frame, meaning applicants are waiting an average of two years before receiving a letter to determine eligibility. With the Towers property being added to the available public housing, the average wait is 3-6 months. As of July 10, 2018, there are roughly 150 applicants on the waitlist for public housing, which includes everyone seeking 1-4 bedrooms.

**3. Is there an updated Annual Report coming and when can we expect that to be made available to the public?**

The board is still voting on numerous items related to the budget and five-year plan. Once the voting has concluded, the new Annual Report can be compiled and made public. This may be expected early next year (2019).

**4. What low-income housing is available to aging populations (qualifications: 65+)? Section 8 vs. Tax incentive housing? Is there a difference?**

Carlson Plaza used to be designated for aging populations but has since been opened up to everyone. There is roughly a 60/40 split in Carlson Plaza with 60% being non-elderly/non-disabled. Currently, MHA offers no housing options specifically designated to aging populations. The same is true for their LIHTC property. While the benefits differ between Section 8 and LIHTC housing, the properties operate similarly in terms of housing (e.g. no age guidelines, must meet income qualifications, pass background check, etc.).