



Applying for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Public Housing

You may be eligible for a NYCHA apartment if you are either a single person or a family and have income that does not exceed the NYCHA limits for your family size. NYCHA considers a “family” to be persons related by blood, marriage, domestic partnership, adoption, guardianship or court-awarded custody. You must be at least 18 years of age to be considered the head of household. Finally, each individual family member must not be a “danger” to the welfare and safety of other residents. This is primarily determined through a criminal background check of each potential resident over the age of 16.

HOW DO I BEGIN MY APPLICATION?

The New York City Housing Authority accepts applications for public housing via computer. You may begin your application online at <https://apply.nycha.info>.

If you do not have access to the internet, you may use one of the free computer kiosks located at the NYCHA Customer Contact Centers listed (in the sidebar). You do not need to make an appointment to use these computers.

The application will include questions about who is part of your family, what their relation is to you and each other, and the total income of your household. You will also be asked to select a first and second choice of borough for your housing placement. Additionally, certain priority may be assigned to applicants who are the victims of domestic violence, or who are referred from City or State agencies that serve the infirm or other at-risk individuals. Be sure that you have enough information with you to accurately answer each of these questions.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY?

Within 2 weeks of the receipt of your application, you will receive an acknowledgment letter from NYCHA. This means your application is being processed, and you will be placed (based on an assigned priority level) on a waiting list for an interview with NYCHA. You will automatically remain on this waiting list for 2 years from the receipt of your application. **If you do not hear from NYCHA that you have received an apartment, you must resubmit an application at least 30 days before your 2 years are up to maintain your place on the waiting list.** Do not forget to do this! NYCHA waiting lists are very long, especially in Queens and Manhattan, and it is somewhat easy to lose your place in line.

NYCHA Customer Contact Centers

Bronx/Manhattan/Queens

478 East Fordham Rd.
(1 Fordham Plaza)
2nd floor
Bronx, NY 10458
(718) 707-7771
Mon.-Fri., 8 am – 5 pm

Brooklyn/Queens/Staten Island

787 Atlantic Ave.
2nd floor
Brooklyn, NY 11238
(718) 707-7771
Mon.-Fri., 8 am – 5 pm

Once you have been interviewed and the information you provided with your application has been verified, you will be allowed to select from a list of specific NYCHA developments in one of your boroughs of choice that has vacancies or anticipated vacancies, or you will be placed on a waiting list for apartments in the borough you selected. When a suitable apartment becomes available, NYCHA conducts its final eligibility test, which includes a criminal background check for all family members who are 16 years of age or older. Unless any issues arise, NYCHA will schedule a date and time for you to accept the apartment and sign your new lease.

Unfortunately, there is no accurate way to estimate how long you should expect to wait to obtain an apartment, but it generally takes several years for a non-emergency application to be processed. Once you have applied, you may check the status of your application, update your contact information, and verify that you are on the waiting lists online at https://selfserve.nycha.info/eservice_enu/.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

You may call Mobilization for Justice, Inc.'s Housing Projects on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 212-417-3888.

Mental health consumers may also call Mobilization for Justice, Inc.'s Mental Health Law Project on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 212-417-3830.

DISCLAIMER: This fact sheet gives general information for NYC residents; it is NOT legal advice.