



Section 8 Voucher
Participant Newsletter



Hello from the staff of Linn-Benton Housing Authority. Section 8 Rental Assistance is intended to help your family be self sufficient. We recognize that the program can be complicated and confusing at times. This Newsletter contains information to help you meet your family obligations under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program.

REPORTING FAMILY CHANGES TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Nothing stays the same for very long and certainly our living situations change throughout the year. The Section 8 **HC**Voucher Program requires that you (the participant family) inform the Linn-Benton Housing Authority **in writing** (within 10 days) when changes occur within your household such as income amount, income source, someone moves out, a baby is born, you have someone that you would like to move in with you or various other changes that may occur.

CHANGES TO YOUR RENTAL AGREEMENT

Your rental agreement (Lease) is your legal contract with your landlord. All of the terms, amounts and other agreements within that document must remain the same as originally agreed unless you and your landlord make formal, written changes. If this occurs you and your landlord must first contact your Occupancy Specialist as this process may require a specific notice, new contract, inspection etc.

Examples:

- If you are now responsible for utilities (such as water & sewer) that were not originally part of your rental agreement with your landlord, you must contact your Occupancy Specialist before you agree to this type of arrangement.
- Your landlord wants you to pay more rent. Do not agree to pay more rent until the Linn–Benton Housing Authority approves the new amount. Pay only the amount that you were assigned on notices from Linn–Benton Housing Authority.



DO NOT LOSE YOUR ASSISTANCE

The Linn–Benton Housing Authority staff will assist you to maintain your Section 8 HCVoucher for as long as you and your family need the assistance. However, an average of 30 families each month lose their Section 8 Vouchers. Some are required to repay money and can face legal prosecution. Some of the reasons families lose their assistance include:

- Not responding to requests for paperwork, etc. from Occupancy Specialist by deadlines
- Not keeping Inspection appointments
- Moving and leaving unit in dirty and damaged condition
- Not reporting Family changes such as income or providing false and misleading information
- Having people living in the assisted unit without first getting approval from the Housing Authority
- Drug related/Criminal activity by any family member or guest

Please help us to help you by cooperating with requests and fulfill your requirements for keeping your Section 8 rental assistance in good standing.

?IS THERE A METH (DRUG) LAB IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Methamphetamine (meth) is a highly addictive drug that creates a long-lasting high. Meth has toxic effects that lead to permanent damage of the brain and other vital organs and can cause seizures, strokes, and even death.

Meth labs can be set up nearly anywhere, but are often found in rental homes, apartments, motel rooms, campgrounds, rest areas, barns, vacant buildings, sheds, RV's, etc. Meth is made by using many common household chemicals.

An active meth lab presents the greatest risk of illness and injury. Many of the substances used to make meth are toxic and some can catch fire or explode causing harm to those nearby (even neighboring houses).

Warning signs of a meth lab:

- Strong chemical odors
- Blacked out windows
- Excessive trash
- Increased activity, especially at night

Do not enter a site that you think is being used, or was used, to cook meth. Drug labs are considered dangerous!

IMPORTANT: If you suspect a meth lab, call your local sheriff's office or police department.

You may get more information about meth by going to the state website: www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/druglab. You may also visit the Linn county sheriff's site at: www.co.linn.or.us/Sheriff/MethMakeover.htm

How to contact your Occupancy Specialist

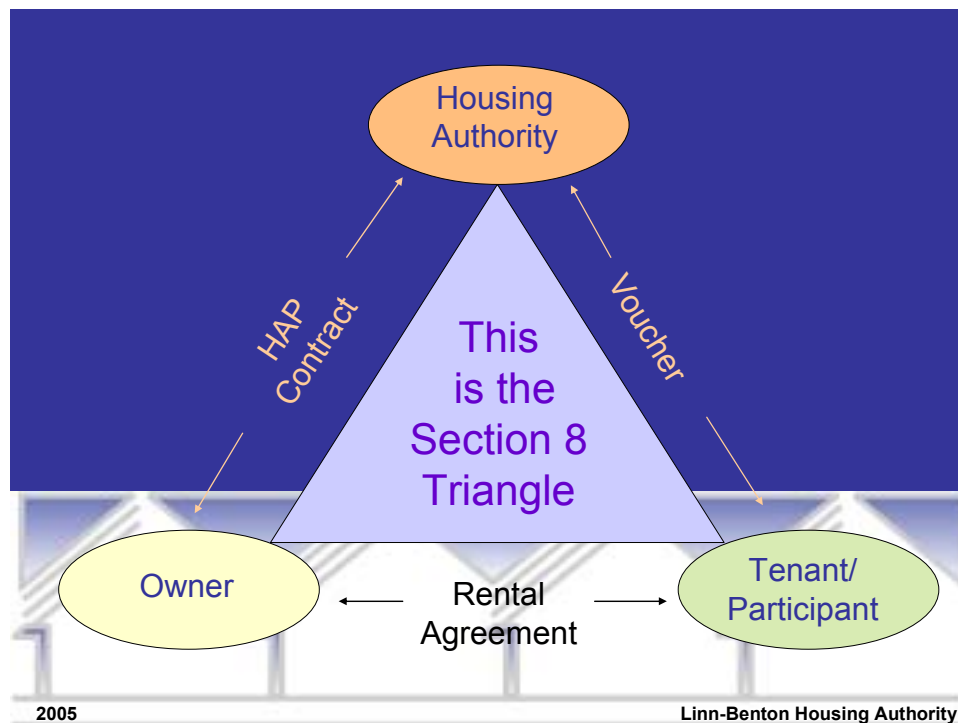
SEC. 8 OCCUPANCY SPECIALISTS

Carolyn Eisele	A – Ch	918-7303
Rochelle Coulter	Ci – Gak	918-7328
Jennifer Sanders	Gal – Ha	918-7330
Kim Seiber	He – Maj	918-7302
Julie Gasperino	Mak – Nun	918-7316
Judy Stutzman	Nus – Ra	918-7312
Jessica Westcott	Re – Ste	918-7315
Tawny Clark	Sti – Z	918-7323
Wendy Younger	FSS & VIDA	918-7317
Anna Benson	FSS & VIDA	918-7313



NOTE: because of the very large caseloads it will be necessary that you call ahead to make an appointment when you need to see your Occupancy Specialist. This will help us serve you better.
Thank You

The Section 8 Program is based on teamwork between the Housing Authority, the Landlord, and You (the participant/tenant). There are separate documents/requirements between these parties (see triangle diagram below).



Happy Holidays from Linn-Benton Housing Authority