



# Portability Notice For Families

**County Of Albemarle**  
**Office of Housing**  
401 McIntire Road  
Charlottesville, VA 22902



**The Information Contained In This Brochure Pertains Only To The County Of Albemarle Office Of Housing And Should Not Be Interpreted As A Definitive Policy Statement For Other Housing Authorities. For More Information on Program Guidelines for Each Program, Please Contact the Appropriate Agency for More Information.**

**The County of Albemarle Office of Housing Shall Not Deny Any Family Or Individual The Equal Opportunity To Apply For Or Receive Assistance Under The Section 8 Programs On The Basis Of Race, Color, Sex, Religion, Creed, National Or Ethnic Origin, Age, Familial Status, Handicap Or Disability.**

**The County of Albemarle Office Of Housing Is Accessible To Persons With Disabilities. Accessibility for the Hearing-Impaired Is Provided By Calling the Virginia Relay Center by Dialing 711.**

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**Office of Housing**  
401 McIntire Road  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
PH: (434) 296-5839  
FAX: (434) 293-0281  
Virginia Relay: 711



## WHAT IS PORTABILITY?

Portability is your right to move from the county or city where you currently live to another county or city outside of the Housing Authority's service specific geographic jurisdictions known as the housing Authority's area of operation. The County of Albemarle's area of operation is within the entire county and within the City of Charlottesville.

One of the top priorities of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is to broaden housing choices for families while assisting you with your rent. In order to maximize your housing choices, you must be informed of portability and you are encouraged to seek housing opportunities that are outside of high-poverty areas.

### WHY MOVE TO AN AREA OUTSIDE OF A HIGH-POVERTY AREA?

- Public Service, Shopping and other Amenities
- School Preferences
- Lower Crime Rates
- Higher Academic Achievement. *\* Preliminary statistics appear to substantiate that children of families moving from a high-poverty area achieve greater academic success.*

For more information on areas of low-poverty concentration in the county, please contact your case manager at the County of Albemarle's Office of Housing at (434) 296-5839, VA Relay 711.

### WHERE CAN YOU MOVE UNDER PORTABILITY RULES?

- Voucher families are eligible for portability allowing them to move to any jurisdiction in the U.S. that administers a tenant-based (Certificate/Voucher) program;
- You may move anywhere within the State of Virginia;
- You may lease a unit outside of Virginia in another state if the unit is in the same Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), or an MSA that is contiguous to an MSA in which the issuing locality is located. An MSA is a number of counties/cities that have been grouped together because of similar characteristics (economic conditions, commuting patterns,

housing costs, etc.). There are several areas in Virginia that have MSAs. If you lease a unit in one of the following MSAs, you will have a broader range of jurisdictions to take your housing assistance (i.e. North Carolina, Tennessee and/or Maryland).

*Johnson City-Kingsport-Briston, TN-VAMSA: Scott, Washington, and Briston City in Virginia; Carter, Hawkins, Sullivan, Unicol, Bristol City, Johnson City and Kingsport City in Tennessee;*

*Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, VA-NC MSA: Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City Matthews, York, Chesapeake City, Hampton City, Newport News City, Norfolk City, Poquoson City, Portsmouth City, Virginia Beach City in Virginia; Currituck County in North Carolina;*

*Washington DC-MD-VA MSA: Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Alexandria City, Fairfax City, Falls Church City, Fauquier, Fredericksburg City, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Washington DC in Virginia; Calvert County, Charles County, Frederick County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County in Maryland.*

- The County of Albemarle's Office of Housing will only allow a family to move once in any 12 month period. If you take your County of Albemarle Voucher to another Housing Authority, the Receiving Housing Authority (RHA) has the discretion to decide whether or not to absorb you into their program and the amount of subsidy you might receive. Additionally, the RHA has the authority to decide whether to administer your unit and bill the County of Albemarle's Office of Housing.

## RESIDENCY

If you do not live within the County of Albemarle's jurisdiction when you applied, you must be under assistance/under lease with a Voucher within the County for 12 months before the County of Albemarle's Office of Housing will let you exercise your portability rights and relocate to another jurisdiction.

## INCOME ELIGIBILITY

**Income Test for New Admlsslons:** The Family must meet the very low income limit where the family leases a unit.

**Income Test for a Portable Partcipating Famly Staying with the Same Type of Subsidy:** An income test is not used if the

Family is staying with the same type of subsidy.

**Income Test for a Portable Partcipating Family that Is Switching Programs:** The Family must meet the low-income Limit of the RHA; and if this income test makes the Family ineligible, then the RHA must absorb or bill with the same type of subsidy the family now holds.

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

- You must contact the County of Albemarle's Office of Housing to request portability to determine your eligibility to exercise portability.
- If you are eligible for portability, we will contact the RHA on your behalf and advise them of your intentions to relocate to their area.
- The RHA will determine whether they will bill the County of Albemarle's Office of Housing for your housing costs or absorb your request into their own program.
- You must present a Request for Lease Approval prior to the expiration of the Voucher term.

*For additional information and assistance regarding portability procedures, please contact your case manager.*

Call us for  
Information!

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