

Section A:

Identifying Data of the Authority



2018/2019 Annual Plan

Identifying Data of Authority

The Housing Authority of the City of Columbia, SC (CHA) is a local government subdivision in the State of South Carolina, created by state legislation on April 10, 1934. The seven member governing board is appointed by the City of Columbia Mayor and Council. It is the third oldest housing authority in the country (after Atlanta, GA and Charleston, SC) and is the largest authority in the State of South Carolina.

The CHA currently has 1,885 units in its public housing inventory. On December 17, 2015, HUD approved the demolition of the Gonzales Gardens community consisting of 280 public housing units. The CHA has relocated all residents to other affordable housing and the units were demolished by 2017. It should be noted that the CHA reached a high of 2,500 public housing units in 1999, but after awards of two HOPE VI Housing Revitalization Grants for Saxon Homes and Hendley Homes (now called Celia Saxon Homes and Rosewood Hills), the CHA's inventory was reduced by 800 units. But the Authority has been building new units and acquiring more housing in the last 15 years under its Housing Replacement Reserves (moving from 1700 units back up to 2200 units in 2016).

The CHA also has approximately 3,800 units of Housing Choice Vouchers, VASH Housing, and Moderate Rehabilitation Vouchers. The number of units fluctuates based on the bedroom sizes of the families, the budget allocation, and individuals we serve. There are currently 414 VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) Vouchers that are administered in conjunction with the Veterans Administration offices at the Dorn Medical Center in Columbia. Another part of the voucher inventory is funded by the City of Columbia to provide housing assistance for persons with AIDS (HOPWA); there are approximately 59 vouchers in the program.

Because there have been limited development funds from HUD in the past twenty years, the CHA has become dedicated to expanding its housing inventory by creating more affordable housing in the Midlands. The CHA has purchased in the last five years over 600 units of market rate housing (these are not a part of the public housing inventory).(currently the inventory is 453 units)

There is an urgent need for emergency housing to help the homeless: In response to this, the CHA has applied for grant funding to assist homeless individuals and families. One of HUD's requirements, besides being homeless, is the head of household must have a documented disability. The CHA currently administers 70 units in the Housing First/Homeless Program.

Although not a major program of the Authority, the CHA has two supportive housing programs. The first is a Homeownership Program that helps existing program participants and the general public in the education process of purchasing a home as well as identifying some homeownership opportunities at the Authority. The second focus is a combination of the Family Self-sufficiency Program (programs relating to career development and empowerment) and Resident Programs (programs relating educational, cultural, and recreational experiences).

The Authority has been recognized for its creative and innovative ideas in promoting government independence for families. Projects such as the Celia Saxon Revitalization and the Rosewood Hills Revitalization, utilizing HOPE VI Funding from HUD, represent the future of housing in this community. Using a New Urbanism style of development, this housing encourages a neighborhood feel with quality, energy efficient housing and some economic development with a retail shopping center.

The CHA has completed building 12 homeownership units in the expanded footprint of the Gonzalez Gardens. After demolition of the property in December 2017, the CHA began redeveloping the property and plans to have the same level of success as the Celia Saxon homes and Rosewood Hills renovations (formally Saxon Homes and Hendly Homes)

This Plan represents our ideas for housing and other programs in Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

PHA Name: The Housing Authority of the City of Columbia, SC _____ PHA Code: SC002 _____
PHA Type: Small High Performer
PHA Plan for Fiscal Year Beginning: (MM/YYYY): 07/2018 _____
PHA Inventory (Based on Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) units at time of FY beginning, above)
Number of Public Housing (PH) Units 1,855 _____ Number of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) 3,792 _____
Total Combined 5,647 _____
PHA Plan Submission Type: Annual Submission Revised Annual Submission