



McHenry County Housing Authority

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Programs and Services

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**Please see MCHA's website for current income limits,
documentation lists and additional information.**

www.mchenrycountyhousing.org

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MCHA has many programs available to assist McHenry county's low income population. Applicants must meet each program's eligibility criteria, and each program requires an application with supporting documentation. The lists of documents required to apply for each program are available on MCHA's web site or via mail, fax or onsite pickup. Documentation provided to one department at MCHA is not shared with other departments due to confidentiality restrictions. You may be requested to provide the same information to more than one department to receive services.

Services are provided by appointment only. We understand that many applicants are in crisis, but it is necessary to call first to determine whether you may be eligible for assistance through MCHA. You may be given a referral to another agency that can better assist you. You will be given a list of documentation needed in order to receive assistance.

Please note that program availability depends on funding availability.

Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8): This is a rental subsidy program where the qualified applicant finds a suitable rental unit in McHenry County and MCHA pays at least a portion of the rent. *Our waiting list is currently closed, and we are not taking any new applications.* Those who are on the waiting list already are waiting approximately 4 years to receive assistance. There is a local preference for the program to assist McHenry County residents. Household income limit is 50% of median income for our area.

Project Based Vouchers: This is rental assistance in specified units in apartment complexes throughout McHenry County. Most of the units are new construction. The waiting list is open for this program, but immediate assistance is not available. Household income limit is 30% of median income.

Rental Housing Support Program: Similar to the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the eligible participants receive a rental subsidy. The subsidized units are only in designated units, owned by private landlords. The units are located in Marengo, Woodstock and McHenry. The household income limit is at 30% of the area median income.

Public Housing: MCHA owns 23 scattered-site, 3-bedroom single family homes and duplexes. Eligible applicants must have a family that is large enough to qualify for a three-bedroom unit. Pre-applications are available at MCHA. There is a local preference for McHenry County residents. There is also a preference given to homeless families working with agencies that are members of the

Continuum of Care to End Homelessness in McHenry County. Household income limit is 80% of the area's median income. There is currently a waiting list for these units.

Senior and Disabled Housing: MCHA owns 96 subsidized one-bedroom units. Applicants for these units must be at least the age of 62 or disabled. There are two locations: Silver Trees in Richmond, and Green Trees in Huntley. Pre-applications are available at MCHA. There is a waiting list for these units. Household income limit is 50% of the area's median income

Affordable Housing: MCHA owns an eight unit building off the square in Woodstock. The Renaissance Apartments has studio, one and two bedroom apartments for people that are at 50% of area median income. These units have lower, affordable rents but are not subsidized.

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program): This is a seasonal program for McHenry County residents that may assist income-eligible households with a payment towards their electric bill and primary heating source bill (gas, propane, etc). Beginning in October, those who are at least the age of 60 or who are disabled may apply for assistance. In November, those with utility shut-offs and families with children under the age of 6 may apply for assistance. In December, the program is open for all income-eligible applicants. At times there is a summer cooling program of brief duration that is only available to the elderly, disabled or households with children who are under the age of 6. This program may also provide furnace repair assistance on an emergency basis to income-eligible families.

ComEd Hardship Program: When funded, this program may provide assistance to those whose ComEd electric service has been shut-off (or who have shut-off notices), but only when the non-payment was caused by a hardship such as the loss of a job or a recent hospitalization. ComEd makes the final determination regarding who receives the assistance.

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program: This program is designed to help low income residents save fuel and money while increasing the comfort of their homes. This is accomplished by doing work on the homes such as sealing cracks with weather strip and caulk, insulating attics and walls, repairing windows and doors and replacing windows. The program can also make sure that the home's heating system is safe and in good working order.

Owner Occupied Rehab Program: Assists eligible homeowners with needed home rehabilitation. Eligible homeowners must have an income less than 80% of the area median income, have equity in their home and must be current on their mortgage. The assistance is provided as a lien on the home which is only payable upon sale or if the owner no longer occupies the home.

Emergency Owner Occupied Rehab Program: May quickly assist eligible homeowners by addressing their home's emergency health and safety issues. Income limits are at 50% of the area median income. The assistance is provided as a lien on the home which is only payable upon sale or if the owner no longer occupies the home.

Housing Sustainability Assistance Program: May provide past-due rent assistance for eligible applicants who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless. May provide security deposit or 1st month's rent assistance for those who are currently homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Emergency shelter may be provided after a disaster such as a fire or tornado. *The need for the assistance must have been caused by a disaster or recent economic crisis that was beyond the household's control and the household must demonstrate that they can pay the rent going forward. In addition, other program rules apply.* Ninety-day residency rules apply. Household income limit for this program is 125 % of poverty level for the past 90 days. Please note that MCHA *cannot* assist with mortgages or property taxes.

Beds for the Formerly Homeless: Purchases new beds for those who are moving into permanent housing immediately after leaving a homeless shelter or a verifiable homeless situation. Ninety-day McHenry County residency rules apply. Household income limit for this program is 125 % of poverty level for the past 90 days.

Urgent Dental Programs: Assists those who have an *immediate dental need*, such as mouth pain and/or difficulty chewing. Also assists when the appearance of the individual’s teeth hinders their ability to obtain employment. *It cannot be used for preventative screenings, prophylactic cleanings or implants.* Eligible individuals must lack dental insurance and financial resources. The maximum amount of assistance given is \$2,000 per person in the form of a payment voucher to be used at a local dentist. Ninety-day McHenry County residency rules apply. The CSBG Urgent Dental Program’s household income limit is 125% of poverty level for the past 90 days. Our Senior Urgent Dental Program and Veterans Urgent Dental Program have a household income limit of 50% of the area’s median income. The Senior Dental Program is limited to those who are at least 55 years-of-age.

Scholarship and Trade Training Programs: These scholarships are for adults who are enrolled in post-secondary education or trade training in an effort to become more employable. The “CSBG Scholarship” program provides 2 adults with a \$1500 scholarship to be used for tuition and/or books at a college, university or trade school. The “Trade Training in High Demand Fields” program provides a limited number of adults with a \$7500 scholarship to be used for training in a field that has been determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as being in high demand by employers. Ninety-day McHenry County residency rules apply. Household income limit is 125% of poverty level for the past 90 days.

Information, Referral, Advocacy & Outreach: Individuals and agencies receive information and referrals in an effort to improve or eliminate an existing or potential crisis situation. Advocacy for needed services and/or assistance from other agencies, organizations and individuals on behalf of a household will be given when appropriate and necessary. MCHA staff attends fairs, outreach events and meetings to provide information to agencies, organizations and individuals regarding MCHA’s programs and services.

Old Firehouse Assistance Center (OFAC): The OFAC is MCHA’s daytime drop-in outreach and assistance center that serves McHenry County’s homeless population. Services offered include but are not limited to: meals, showers, social services, free medical care, free haircuts, etc. The OFAC is located at 120 W. South St, Woodstock, IL 60098. The phone number at the OFAC is (815) 337-9809. It is open year-round, from 9 AM – 3 PM, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. To learn more about the Old Firehouse Assistance Center, Like us on Facebook:

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