Attention Owners: Help Vulnerable Families During the Coronavirus Crisis

During this incredibly difficult time, the Boston Housing Authority is calling on all owners of rental properties to assist us in helping Boston families find stable housing. The Boston Housing Authority has hundreds of voucher holder families actively seeking housing. Many of these families include children enrolled in Boston Public Schools and are in shelter or otherwise homeless. Now more than ever, it is incredibly important to provide these families with stable housing and decrease the shelter population in order to alleviate overcrowding and enable social distancing.

Housing Authority Vouchers Pay Market Rents Throughout Boston and Greater Boston

The Boston Housing Authority recently changed its policies so that voucher families can afford rents in virtually every zip code in Boston and Greater Boston. Federal vouchers pay up to the median market rent in most zip codes in Boston and the surrounding neighborhoods and provide consistent rent payments in uncertain times. See www.bostonhousing.org/paymentstandards to see if your rental property is affordable to voucher holders.

Voucher Rents Are Guaranteed By the Federal Government – Providing Certainty in Uncertain Times

Vouchers provide stability for your rental property. In the event the tenant family loses income, the BHA will adjust their share and make up the difference so continue receiving the contract rent. Voucher families have also been screened for Housing Choice Voucher program eligibility, which means that they are at or below 50% of area median income, and we have completed a criminal background check that satisfies strict Boston Housing Authority requirements.

Quick Inspection Process – and Digital Processing to Ensure Safety and Speed of Lease up

In order for an apartment to be eligible for this initiative, it will need to be inspected for Housing Quality Standards, a basic health and safety review. Inspections will occur in as soon as 48 hours after you select a family to lease. Once the unit passes inspection, the BHA will sign a housing assistance payments contract for the following day and pay a prorated portion for the initial month. All paperwork will be completed using electronic signature and email.

We are looking for owners to set aside units so our families can be placed quickly. Help us empty the shelters in this critical time and provide stability to families, while ensuring that you continue to receive a steady income stream in the form of federally-guaranteed market rental payments. Let us know if you have a unit that can be used to help! To list a unit for this initiative, visit www.bostonhousing.org/helpfamilies. Email or call us here & please forward this notice widely: Thomas.White@bostonhousing.org or 617-988-4540.

Sincerely,

Kate Bennett
Administrator
Boston Housing Authority