



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 75
[2017 Assembly Bill 236]

Housing Choice Voucher Program

2017 Wisconsin Act 75 relates to waiting lists for the housing choice voucher program. The voucher program is commonly referred to as “Section 8 housing,” for the section of the Code of Federal Regulations that governs the program. In Wisconsin, the voucher program is administered in some counties by the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), typically through local contracts, and is administered in other areas directly by the local governmental unit.

The Act allows WHEDA to develop a two-year pilot program to give priority to chronically homeless individuals and families who are on a waiting list for the federal housing choice voucher program.

The Act also allows WHEDA to provide case management services to a chronically homeless individual or family who receives a voucher under the pilot program.

Under the applicable federal regulations, “chronically homeless” means an individual or head of household who is disabled, and has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or had at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years that, combined, total a year or more. [24 C.F.R. s. 91.5.]

The Act applies to the WHEDA-administered voucher program; other governmental units that administer the voucher program are allowed under federal law to establish local preferences. [24 C.F.R. s. 982.54 (d) (1).]

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.