

Returning Citizen Re-Entry and DCA's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program

Housing Choice Vouchers

- ▶ The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) administers the federally financed Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.
- ▶ The regulations governing the HCV program are found at 24 CFR 982.
- ▶ These regulations include mandatory and permissible prohibitions that impact eligibility for admission and continued participation in the HCV program.



Federal *Mandatory* Prohibitions on Admission to the HCV program

Meth on Housing Premises

- ▶ Any household member that has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for the manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing.

Lifetime sex offender registry

- ▶ Any household member that is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program.

One mandatory three (3) year ban on admission to the HCV program:

A three year ban for persons evicted from federally assisted housing due to a conviction for drug-related criminal activity.

- ▶ Household member
- ▶ Drug activity
- ▶ Eviction

Federal *Permissible* Prohibitions on Admission to the HCV program

The public housing authority (PHA) may prohibit admission of a household member to the program if the PHA determines that any household member is currently engaged in, or has engaged in during a **reasonable time** before the admission:

- ▶ Drug-related criminal activity;
- ▶ Violent criminal activity.

Other Grounds for Denial of Access: *Threat to Health, Safety and Peaceful Enjoyment*

- ▶ Other criminal activity which may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents or person residing in the immediate vicinity; or
- ▶ Other criminal activity which may threaten the health and safety of the owner, property management, or persons performing a contract administration function or responsibility on behalf of the PHA (including a PHA employee or a PHA contractor, subcontractor or agent.)
- ▶ The PHA may establish a period (**reasonable time**) before the admission decision during which an applicant must not have engaged in the activities specified above.

DCA's Current Prohibition on Admission Related to Criminal Activity

DCA's Administrative Plan at Chapter 16 incorporates the *Grounds for Denial or Termination of Assistance* which delineates the federal mandatory and permissive prohibitions described above.



Current Criminal Activity-Related Prohibitions to the HCV program

- ▶ A life-time ban for registered sex offenders
- ▶ A life-time ban for persons convicted of manufacturing or producing methamphetamines on federally-assisted housing properties.
- ▶ A three year ban for persons evicted from federally assisted housing due to a conviction for drug-related criminal activity.

Criminal activity that impacts **ADMISSION** to the HCV program

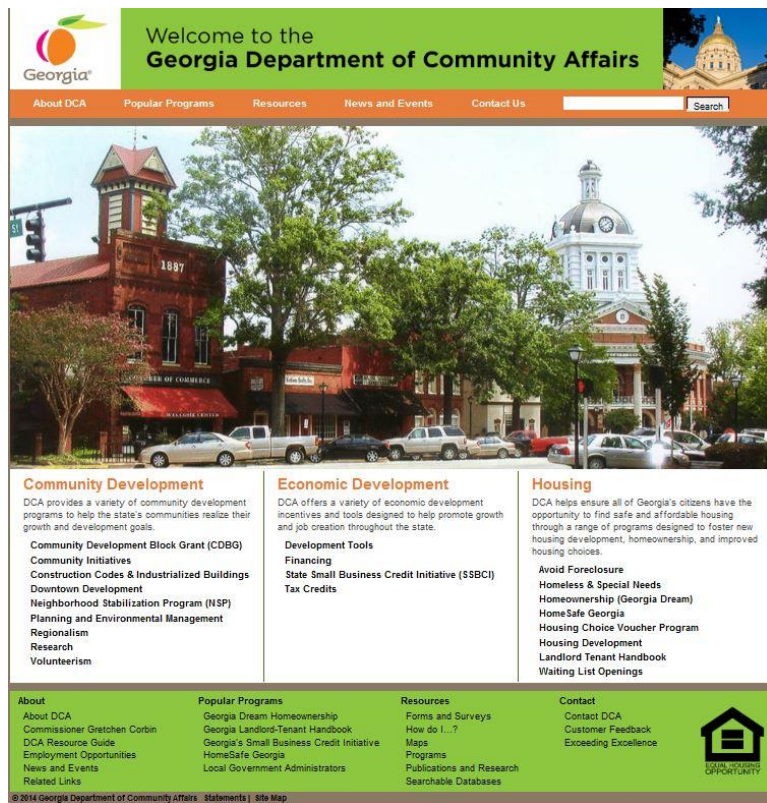
- ▶ Be evicted from federally assisted housing for serious violation of the Lease, including drug related criminal activity within the last three years.
- ▶ Be a felon convicted of illegal drug or violent criminal activity or other criminal act that threatens the health and safety of other residents. An exception would be where there has been a final resolution to the criminal case at least five years prior to the date of the application for admission to the program. Final resolution includes: completed sentence including probation and/or parole.

Other Preferences

- ▶ Settlement Agreement from US v. Georgia
- ▶ Olmstead v. LC (referrals from GA Dept. Of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD))
- ▶ Mental illness
 - ▶ Risk of institutionalization
 - ▶ Being released from jails or prisons
 - ▶ Or Chronically homeless due to disability



Important contacts



▶ DCA's website: www.dca.ga.gov

▶ DCA Rental Assistance Division Call Center: 404 327-7912

Representatives are answering front line calls regarding Housing Choice Vouchers, including general inquiries, such as:

- * Regional Office Contact Information
- * Counties within DCA's jurisdiction
- * Waiting List Openings
- * Port Process