



BOSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

Communications

52 Chauncy Street, Floor 11

Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Phone: 617-988-4109

Fax: 617-988-4133

TDD: 800-545-1833 x420

www.BostonHousing.org

(This information is available in alternative format upon request.)

August 31, 2007

Contact: Lydia Agro, Communications Director/BHA, 617-988-4109

For Immediate Release

Section 8 voucher scam

Boston – The Boston Housing Authority has recently been approached by a number of people who claim to have purchased Section 8 vouchers. Victims were promised a BHA Section 8 voucher worth thousands of dollars in rental subsidy in exchange for a cash payment. However, the vouchers did not exist and the victims were left stranded without their money and no Section 8 voucher. Information about the illegal scam has been forwarded by the BHA to the appropriate federal authorities.

Section 8 vouchers, which provide the holder with a federal housing subsidy to rent in the private market, are not bought and sold, but are obtained only under specific circumstances and directly from the agencies that administer them, like the Boston Housing Authority.

In order to obtain a Section 8 voucher from the Boston Housing Authority, a person must currently be on the BHA's waiting list and meet certain eligibility criteria. There is absolutely no fee involved. Any claim that a Section 8 voucher costs money is inaccurate and illegal.

If you are approached by someone claiming they can get you a Boston Housing Authority Section 8 voucher for a fee, please report such an offer to the BHA's Legal Department at 617-988-4185 or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Inspector General's fraud hotline at 1-800-347-3735 or by email to hotline@hudoig.gov. Persons who would like to check their status on a BHA waiting list should call 617-988-4200.

The BHA's tenant-based Section 8 waiting list was open for new applications during a two-week period only in October of 2006. We are now issuing vouchers to families and individuals who applied during that two week period. The Boston Housing Authority's tenant-based Section 8 waiting list is currently closed. However, the Authority is currently accepting applications for its public housing program as well as its project-based and moderate rehabilitation Section 8 programs from eligible applicants.

###