

## **Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Centralized Waiting List**

**Massachusetts - MassNAHRO – Massachusetts Chapter ([www.massnahro.org](http://www.massnahro.org))**

The Centralized Waiting List for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers in Massachusetts serves a valuable function for the **91 communities** that are participating in the program. This program is administered by **Massachusetts Chapter of NAHRO**. The Section 8 housing voucher program provides housing assistance to eligible candidates at a subsidized rate. This centralized waiting list in Massachusetts is unique. It allows participating communities to maintain their own waiting list based on their own local preferences and priorities. It has eliminated the need for the applicant to apply in multiple communities. The feature in itself has taken the hardship away from the applicant and created a standardized application that is easily managed and maintain by the participating communities. Some of the functionalities available are:

### **Apply Only Once and at Any Town**

The applicant does not need to go from town to town and apply at each location to be considered for eligibility. The applicant applies only once in any of the participating communities and their name is placed in the central database for HCV consideration.

### **Apply Online**

The applicant can apply on line using the on-line application feature. This feature also allows the applicant to change their application details any time and review their application status in real time.

### **Community Preferences and Individual Ranking**

Each community can maintain their own residency and preference rules within the system. A set of uniform rules have been developed for all communities. Based these rules, the applicant is ranked individually in each community.

### **Activities**

All updates in an applicant record is recorded as activities in the system. Any community user can observe all activities of any applicant at any time. This is specifically useful prior to selecting a candidate.

The system has significantly reduced the amount of paper transactions. Currently, the system maintains a list of more than 100,000 waiting applicants. The system has distributed more than 1,000 Section 8 vouchers each year since 2003.