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## Mainstream Voucher Program Section 8

**Mainstream Voucher Program:** The Mainstream Voucher Program is used to assist non-elderly persons with disabilities and their families. Non-elderly person with disabilities must be at least 18-61 years of age and must have been living in our area for six months or more. The non-elderly person with disabilities is required to have a caseworker through one of our partner agencies who will determine if this person qualifies for this program. The caseworker will then set an appointment to start an application with the client and send the complete application along with the documents that is needed to support the application. When the application is sent over to the New Smyrna Beach Housing Authority caseworker, that caseworker will then process the application and run a background check. Once this process is complete the caseworker will then schedule a briefing and a voucher will be issued and the applicant can start searching for a decent, safe, and sanitary place to live. Non-elderly persons with disabilities who turn 61 after receiving their voucher will not lose assistance. Since housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants can find their own housing, including single-family homes, town houses and apartments. Mainstream Vouchers are administered locally by public housing agencies. (PHAs) The PHAs receive federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to administer the voucher program. A family that is issued a mainstream voucher is responsible for finding a suitable housing unit of the family's choice where the owner agrees to rent under the program. This unit may include the family's present residence. Rental units must meet minimum standards of health and safety, as determined by the PHA. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by the NSBHA on behalf of the participating family. The family then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. We go by 30% of the participating family's income.

