

## Summation of Public Comments From August 3, 2015 Public Hearing

On August 3, 2015, the Housing Authority of Prince George's County (HAPGC") held a public hearing at 1801 McCormick in Largo Maryland. The purpose of the public hearing was to solicit the public's comment on the HAPGC's proposed amendment to Chapter 4 of its Administrative Plan. The following is a representation of the comments received at the hearing and HAPGC's responses.

### **Commenter: How the change will affect those with disabilities?**

HAPGC Response: The change will have no adverse impact on those with disabilities. All interested individuals can submit a pre-application using the computer, smartphone, notebook or tablet. The HAPGC will be working with organizations that serve individuals with disabilities. These organizations include, but are not limited to, Independence Now, National Federation for the Blind, and Mobility.

### **Commenter: What about those who cannot afford internet, computers, smart phones in their home?**

HAPGC Response: For those individuals that do not have a computer, smartphone etc., HAPGC has partnered with the Prince George's Memorial Library System (PGMLS) to provide access to free access to public computers with internet service for a two week period.

### **Commenter: What about the lack of affordability to travel to additional places to complete the applications?**

HAPGC Response: Prince George's County provides low-cost to free transportation throughout the County.

Some of the services are:

Public Works and Transportation – The Bus: For Schedules:

<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/PublicWorks/Transit/TheBus/Pages/Maps-and-Schedules.aspx>

Contact The Bus Service at 301-324-BUSS (2877)

Metro Access- [http://www.wmata.com/accessibility/metroaccess\\_service](http://www.wmata.com/accessibility/metroaccess_service)

Contact Metro Access at 301-562-5360, press 2 for trip status, and then press 2 to speak to a customer service representative (TTY 301-588-7535).

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**Commenter: Those with disabilities may not have the mental or physical stamina to travel to locations to complete pre-applications**

HAPGC Response: The HAPGC recognize that there are individuals with certain limitation that is why the HAPGC is partnering with a number of organizations that work with individuals to assist the Authority in the best way to reach these individuals.

**Commenter: It may be difficult for those who do not have knowledge or are intimidated by computers and won't be able to access the applications.**

HAPGC Response: If these individuals do not have family or friends to assist with the application, they can take advantage of assistance provided at one of the three libraries:

Hyattsville Branch  
6530 Adelphi Rd  
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Oxon Hill Branch  
6200 Oxon Hill Rd  
Oxon Hill, MD 20784

Spaulding's Branch  
5811 Old Silver Hill Rd  
District Heights, MD 20747

**Commenter: Suggest meeting with community service agencies to discuss how this will affect populations they serve.**

HAPGC Response: The HAPGC will be reaching out to community service agencies to provide information in regards to the opening of the waitlist so they can prepare and assist their clients. These agencies include but are not limited to:

- Department of Social Services
- Veteran Affairs
- Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services
- Independence Now!
- National Federation for the Blind

**Commenter: Concerned about visual impaired/blind and access to online applications.**

HAPGC Response: The HAPGC is working the National Federation for the Blind Prince George's County Representative to provide guidance on how we effectively serve visually impaired residents during the wait list opening.

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Assistance can also be provided at any of the PGCMLS during the two week opening, as well as the HA staff providing on-site assistance at three (3) designated library locations on three (3) specified days.

The three (3) designated libraries also have Zoom text computers for visually impaired individuals.

**Commenter: I am a full-time student with no earned income. What's the possibility of getting on the waitlist and a voucher?**

HAPGC Response: Everyone has an equal chance to be randomly placed on the waitlist, once on the wait list if an applicant is deemed eligible they will receive a voucher according to HUD and HAPGC guidelines.

**Commenter: Why use a lottery in selection for the waitlist?**

HAPGC Response: The lottery system provides for the most efficient way of creating a new HCV waitlist for the HAPGC.

**Commenter: How are people selected to receive housing assistance?**

HAPGC Response: A waitlist will be created using a random selection lottery.