

Metropolitan Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Metro HRA)

Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List Opening

May 6, 2019

Community Development Committee

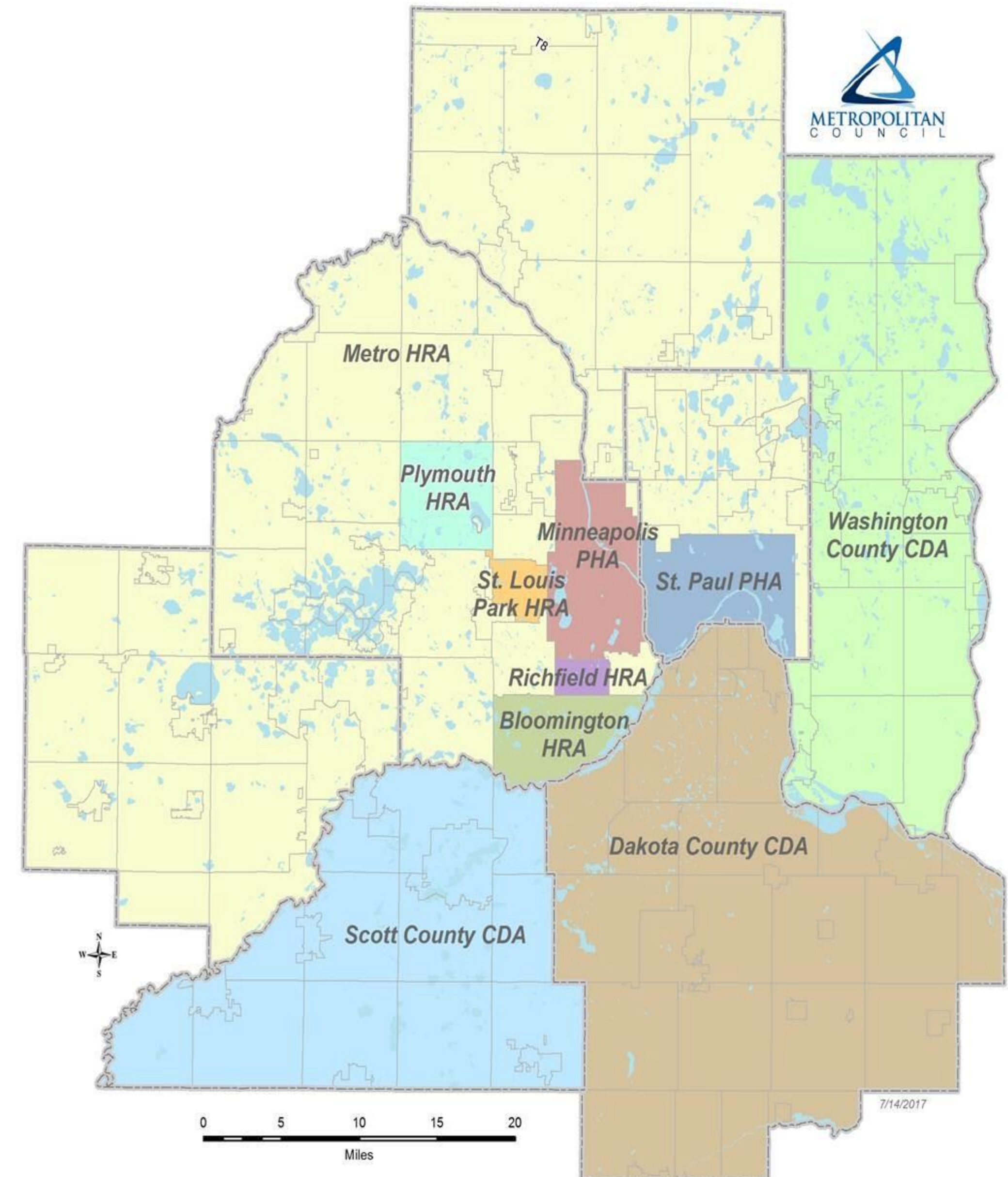


Waiting List Requirements

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires housing agencies to adopt policies for establishing and maintaining a waiting list for Housing Choice Voucher rent assistance
- The Metro HRA has discretion for determining:
 - Timeframe for waiting list opening
 - Number of applications to accept and through what process (A lottery)
 - Application format (in-person, online, by mail)
 - Preferences for waiting list placement (residency, veterans, working, homeless)

Voucher Agencies

- 10 housing authorities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
- Each has own rules and manages own waiting list
- Each establishes own preferences
- Families have options to apply for all 10 waiting lists
 - When waiting lists are open
 - Process is complicated



Waiting List Needs

- The Metro HRA has approximately 60 Housing Choice Vouchers turnover each month
- These slots need to be filled to ensure all vouchers are used and all funding is spent
 - Waiting list admissions
 - The goal is to serve applicants on the waiting list
 - Absorbing vouchers from other agencies
 - This is a quick fix to fill slots quickly and reduce administrative burden
- Goal is to have a 2-3 year waiting list
 - Dependent upon funding and turnover

Once Upon A Time....

- HRA Opened the HCV Waiting List in 2009
- Open for 4 Days
- Applications available via email, phone or fax
- Phone Bank established
- 16,102 applications requested
- Mailed out applications to families for completion
- Random drawing done for placement of 5,000 placed on the list
- Hired temporary employees to enter the applications into housing software

2015 Waiting List Opening

- Online application process
- Waiting list open for 4 days
 - 24 hour access to online system
- Public engagement prior to opening
- 36,000 applications received
- 2,000 placed on the waiting list through a lottery
 - 95% of waiting list placements live, work or attend school in the 7-county Metro Area
 - 5% of waiting list placements from out state
 - 34,000 applicants not placed on list

2019 Waiting List Opening

- Waiting list will open June 12-18 2019
- Joint opening Metro HRA, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, St. Paul Public Housing Authority
- Applications will be completed online by using Waitlist Check 24 hours per day
 - Smart phones, tablets, computers
- Lottery of 2,000
 - 95% of waiting list placements live, work or attend school in the 7-county Metro Area
 - 5% of waiting list placements from out state
- Reasonable Accommodations will be provided
- Desk Side Assistance will be offered

Collaboration and Engagement

- Partnership and Collaboration with MPHA and St Paul
 - Regional collaboration benefits
- Robust Outreach-30 day notice period
 - Libraries
 - County Partners and Continuum of Care
 - Social Service Agencies
 - Advocacy Groups
 - Housing Link
- Social Media
- Press Releases
- Website

Next Steps

- Public Notice – May 13, 2019
- Press Release and Outreach
- Each agency will manage opening and do their own lottery
- Applicants will be notified of placement by Metro HRA within a week of lottery
- Applicants will log into Waitlist Check to check lottery status
 - Active/Inactive Status
- Applicants will have 24 hour access to Waitlist Check
 - Check status
 - Report Changes

2019 Waiting List Opening

Questions?

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