

**GASTONIA HOUSING AUTHORITY
SECTION 8 FACT SHEET**

1. Where is the Section 8 office located?

The Section 8 department is also located at 340 W. Long Ave. Section 8 applications are available in the Self-Service Resource Center rack at this location. The Section 8 department provides all administrative functions from this location.

2. What does the Section 8 Program provide?

The Section 8 Program provides rental assistance through the housing choice voucher program that allows families to locate affordable housing (apartments or houses) throughout Gaston County. The Gastonia Housing Authority will pay rental assistance for a unit based on the family's income.

Applicants can search for units anywhere in Gaston County. The rent must be reasonable as determined by the Gastonia Housing Authority and comparable to other similar unassisted units and the owner must be willing to place the property on the Section 8 program. The unit must meet all Housing Quality Standards (HQS) and Acceptable Criteria Variations (ACV) as established by HUD and the Gastonia Housing Authority.

3. What do I need to do to apply for Section 8 housing assistance?

Section 8 application packets are available in the Self-Service Resource Center office located to the right in the Central Office lobby. These packets should be completed, brought to the Central Office lobby, date stamped with the machine provided in the lobby and dropped in the box in the lobby.

Once your name reaches the top of the waiting list you will be asked to provide additional information such as, birth certificates and social security cards for each member of the applicant household, written verification of all household income, non-certified copies of criminal reports for all family members age 18 or older from any county they have resided in or been arrested in within the past three years.

4. What happens once my application has been accepted?

All applications must be time and date stamped to be accepted by GHA. The application is reviewed and entered into our computer system for placement on the waiting list in the order that it was received and ranked according to federal and state mandate.

Assuming that you meet the preliminary requirements, you will be mailed a letter indicating that you have been placed on the waiting list.

This letter does not guarantee that you will be issued a voucher, but merely acknowledges that your application has been accepted and placed on the waiting list pending further verification.

5. Can I, as an applicant, call to inquire about my application?

GHA does not give out information over the telephone regarding position on the Section 8 waiting list. A copy of the Section 8 waiting list is available in the Self-Service Resource Center office at the Central Office where interested applicants can view the waiting list during office hours.

6. What happens if any of my information changes after my application has been submitted and I am placed on the waiting list?

It is the applicant's responsibility to notify the Gastonia Housing Authority of any changes in income family composition, employment status, address or phone number change, etc. Changes for a Section 8 applicant must be reported in writing by completing an application update form available in the Self-Service Resource Center at the Central Office. The form is completed, date stamped and placed in the box provided. **No applicant updates will be taken over the telephone.** Failure to report any changes may cause your application to be purged from the waiting list and will require you to re-apply for Section 8 assistance. This will delay your possibility of being offered housing or assistance.

NOTE: Any correspondence from the Gastonia Housing Authority does not guarantee that you will be issued a voucher. You must meet all screening criteria that the Gastonia Housing Authority uses to determine if you will be issued a voucher.