

Caribou Housing Agency

More than 350 people rely on the Caribou Housing Agency for rental assistance each month. That, by itself, defines our mission. Most of them are low- and moderate-income people, with children and often extended family in the home – a grandmother on Social Security or an unemployed uncle. Our job is to provide them safe, decent and sanitary housing conditions, and connect them to the educational and economic opportunities that will help them prosper.

The rental assistance that the Caribou Housing Agency (CHA) provides is the Housing Choice Voucher Program (aka Section 8). Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), this program provides an estimated \$18 million in assistance payments to participating property owners each year.

Property Owners/Landlords

It takes a lot of partnership to make this program work and CHA is proud of its 52 Owners and Agents (Landlords) who participate in the HCV Program. In 2015, CHA paid approximately \$854,000 in Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) to owners/landlords of rental properties in the Caribou area.

Housing Choice Voucher: Waiting List

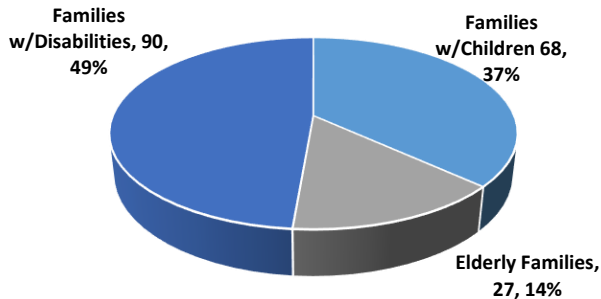
When vouchers are available, the CHA draws applications, by date & time of application, from the Waiting List. The eligibility determination process includes verification of family composition, income eligibility, and criminal background checks.

In 2015, CHA invited 36 applicants off the Waiting list, 23 responded, and 18 were issued vouchers to search for a rental unit on the open market. Of those vouchers issued, only 7 leased up. The average gross household income of those that leased up in 2015 is \$8,751 with a family size of 2.2.

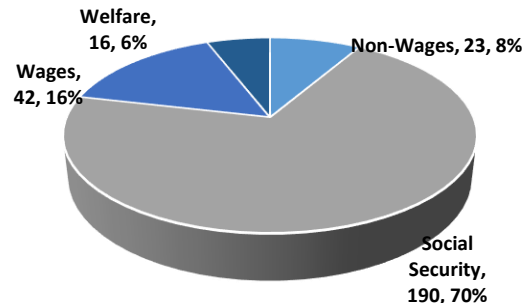
Housing Choice Voucher: Program Participants

By the end of 2015, CHA administered 2,195 vouchers, an average of 183 per month; putting us at a 95% unit utilization rate.

Distribution by Family Type



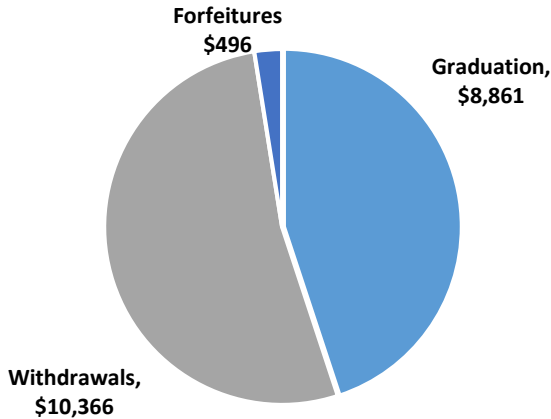
Distribution by Source of Income (per family member)



Housing Choice Voucher: Family Self-Sufficiency

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program promotes self-sufficiency and asset development by providing supportive services to participant to increase their employability, to increase the number of employed participants, and to encourage increased savings through an escrow savings program.

FSS Escrow Graduations/ Withdrawals/Forfeitures in 2015



Current FSS Data, 2016

Total FSS participants:	31
Participants w/an escrow savings account:	23
Average monthly escrow savings deposit: (participants with an escrow balance)	\$101
Average escrow savings account balance: (participants with an escrow balance)	\$1,215
Highest escrow account savings balance:	\$3,582

Housing Choice Voucher: Homeownership

Eligible participants have the option of purchasing home with their HCV assistance rather than renting.

- 8 vouchers were used to purchase homes since 2008.
- 0 vouchers are currently active.

Caribou Housing Agency Highlights for 2014

- Section Eight Management Assessment Program (SEMAP): Each year CHA undergoes an independent performance review by HUD. Fourteen separate indicators are assessed on a 100 point scale. For Fiscal Year 2014) CHA scored 100% and was designed a “High Performer”.
- Family Self-Sufficiency: CHA was awarded the 2015 FSS Grant for FY 2016 in the amount of \$48,729. We are the only Agency in Aroostook County, Maine that has the FSS Grant.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa A. Plourde
Executive Director