

Caribou Housing Agency

More than 337 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 rental assistance to about 2.2 million families.

Property Owners/Landlords

It takes a lot of partnership to make this program work and CHA is proud of its 48 Owners and Agents (Landlords) who participate in the HCV Program. In 2016, CHA paid approximately \$785,270 in Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) to owners/landlords of rental properties in the Caribou area.

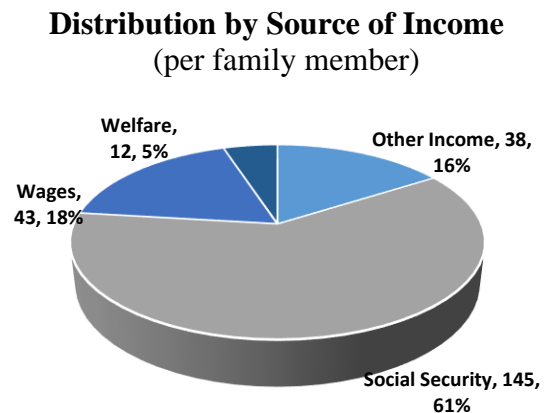
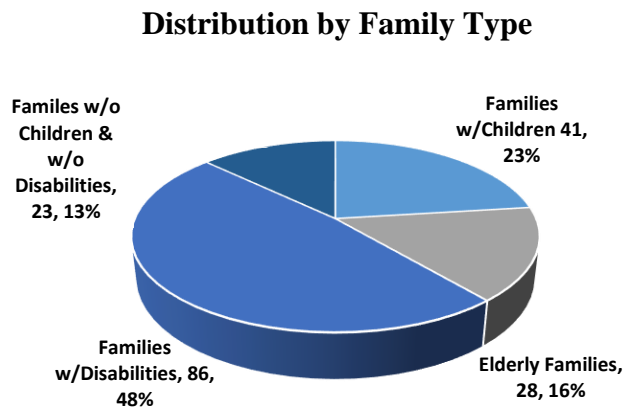
Housing Choice Voucher: Waiting List

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 2016, CHA invited 168 applicants off the Waiting list, 57 responded, and 46 were issued vouchers to search for a rental unit on the open market. Of those vouchers issued, only 23 leased up. The average gross household income of those that leased up in 2016 is \$9,576 with a family size of 2.05

Housing Choice Voucher: Program Participants

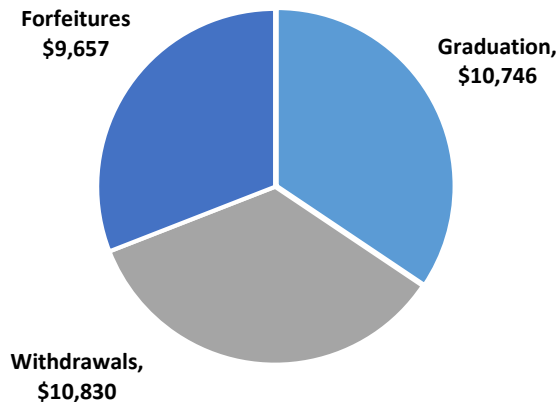
By the end of 2016, CHA administered 2137 vouchers, an average of \$374 per month; putting us at a 92% unit utilization rate.



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 2016



Current FSS Data, 2016

Total FSS participants:	30
Participants w/an escrow savings account:	17
Average monthly escrow savings deposit: (participants with an escrow balance)	\$3,277
Average escrow savings account balance: (participants with an escrow balance)	\$1,043
Highest escrow account savings balance:	\$3,598

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 2016

- 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 2015) CHA scored 100% and was designed a “High Performer”.
- Family Self-Sufficiency: CHA was awarded the 2016 FSS Grant for FY 2015 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