

## Housing Choice Voucher Program

*Safe and Affordable Housing*

Caribou Housing Agency has an Annual Contributions Contract (ACC) with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to serve 193 families and has a calendar year budget for Housing Assistance Payments (HAP).

The HCV program is designed to meet the needs of low-income families and elderly/disabled by providing rental assistance in rental housing units. The program covers the gap between what the individual/family can afford and what the private market demands for rent.

Applicants are selected from the wait list based on established criteria and preferences. Preferences are in place that target selecting applicants that live/work in the Caribou area, are veterans of the armed forces, have been displaced due to a natural disaster, and/or are or have been displaced due to domestic violence.

Participating households pay a minimum of 30% of their adjusted income or a minimum of \$50.00, whichever is greater, toward rent and utilities.

The rental unit must pass a Housing Quality Standard inspection and fall within HUD's Payment Standard schedule. Households are allowed to select a housing unit anywhere in the Caribou area, and surrounding communities served by CHA, except for the town of Fort Fairfield and the City of Presque Isle

After successfully fulfilling the program requirements, the Section 8 HCV can be made portable to allow a household to move anywhere in the United States.

### Waiting List



- 150 Applicants Pulled
- 42 New Admissions
- Currently, over 62 Applicants on list in the Caribou area.

### 2,088 Households Served



- 7% Elderly
- 14% Elderly/Disabled
- 35% Family
- 44% Non-Elderly/Disabled

### Household Income



- 125 - Social Security/Disability
- 34 - Wages
- 15 - Zero Income
- 8 - TANF
- Average Annual Household Income: \$9,402

### 172 Rental Units/Month



- 0 - 0 Bedrooms
- 65 - 1 Bedroom
- 82 - 2 Bedrooms
- 25 - 3 Bedrooms
- 0 - 4 Bedrooms

### 216 Housing Quality Inspections



- 165 - Caribou
- 5 - Limestone/Caswell
- 4 - Washburn

### \$860,000 In Rental Assistance



- 50 + Property Owners
- Average Housing Assistance Payment: \$370

## Family Self-Sufficiency Program

### *Pathway to Independence*

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) is a program that helps Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) families obtain employment that will lead to economic independence and self-sufficiency.

The CHA connects FSS participants with schools, businesses, and other local partners to develop a comprehensive program. The program leads participating FSS family members on the right path to develop the skills and experience which will enable them to obtain employment that pays a living wage.

HCV participants volunteer to enroll in the FSS program and make a commitment to fully participate for five years.

The program consists of developing individual personal goals and a plan to attain their goals. The FSS coordinator walks with the FSS participants, every step of their journey, encouraging them to continue when the road is difficult and celebrating their successes. The FSS staff stays in regular contact with FSS participants through phone calls, meetings, home visits, newsletters, educational training sessions, and occasional



40 FSS Participants

- 23 - Employed
- 16 - Seeking Employment /Schooling
- 1 - In School



\$49,972 Total Escrow Contributions

- Average Escrow Account: \$1,729



Graduates

- 4 Graduates in 2018, with \$15,294 in Escrow Payments

• 90 Total Graduates since 1993

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

In the Caribou Housing area, the Payment Standard for a two-bedroom apartment is \$742 a month.

To afford this rent, a household must earn \$2,473 monthly or \$15.46 per hour based on a 40-hour week. Minimum-wage earners in the area would have to work 62 hours per week to earn enough to afford the area's Payment Standard rent.

- \$11,512 Average Annual Income for CHA Working Adults
- \$9,861 Average Annual Income for all CHA Adults
- \$37,378 Median Household Income for Aroostook County

### About Caribou Housing Agency

- CHA was established in 1977
- Governed by a Board of Commissioners consisting of 7 members appointed by the Caribou City Council.
  - JR Belanger, Chairman
  - Jay Kamm, Vice-Chair
  - Mary Kate Barbosa, Board Member
  - Mark Goughan, Board Member
  - Thomas Ayer, Board Member
  - Carman Durost, Board Member
  - Sandra Bittle, Board Member
- CHA employs two (2) staff members
  - Lisa Plourde, Housing Director
  - Sue Ouellette, FSS/Homeownership Coordinator
- Has been designated "High Performer" by HUD (19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year) for effectively managing the HCV program.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Lisa Plourde**  
**Housing Director**

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:**

➤ The CHA was designated “**High Performer**” by HUD (for the 19th consecutive year) for effectively managing the HCV program.

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