



Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List Lottery Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This FAQ is designed to answer questions about pre-applying for the Boise City & Ada County Housing Authorities (BCACHA) Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Waiting List Lottery. If you have additional questions after reviewing these materials, please call (208)-345-4907.

How do I apply for the HCV Waiting List Lottery?

You may apply at any time between Monday, January 10, 2022 and Thursday, February 10, 2022. A pre-application is done through an online-only process (i.e. we will **not** accept paper applications). To start the pre-application process once the application period is open, please visit www.bcacha.org and click on the appropriate link. Pre-applications can be submitted online 24 hours a day during the pre-application period.

Why are you using a lottery to determine positions on the waiting list instead of first-come, first-served?

The lottery is the fairest way to give everyone an equal chance. This avoids families having to wait for hours in line since there is no rush to be the first one to apply. ***Applying early will not improve someone's chances of being selected for the lottery.*** All households will have the same chance of being selected for the lottery regardless of when they apply during the pre-application period.

How do I know if I am eligible to apply for the lottery?

There are four basic rules for qualification. To qualify, you must be able to answer yes to each of the four criteria.

1. Head of Household must be over 18 years of age; **AND**
2. The household qualifies for the Idaho residency preference (a family qualifies for this preference if the family lives, works, or has been hired to work within the state of Idaho); **AND**
3. Must meet at least one of the following definitions:
 - Head of household, co-head or spouse are age 62 or older; or
 - Head of household, co-head or spouse is disabled; or
 - Families with minor children; **AND**
4. The household must be low-income (see below)

1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
\$26,400	\$30,150	\$33,900	\$37,650	\$40,700	\$43,700	\$46,700	\$49,700

I don't have a computer or access to internet. Where can I go to apply online?

Any computer, smart phone, or internet enabled device can be used to complete a pre-application. The BCACHA has also partnered with many service providers in the community who will provide free access to computers at different locations throughout the county. You may also contact our office at (208) 345-4907 and a member of staff will assist you.

Are there certain factors that could make me ineligible?

Yes. The BCACHA may deny assistance to applicants that meet certain criteria. To view a list of this criteria, please visit www.bcacha.org.

What information do I need to apply for the lottery?

The online pre-application will require the following information. You do not have to submit any documentation with your pre-application.

The online pre-application will **require** the following information:

- Name, Social Security number, and date of birth for the head of household;
- In addition, you **MUST** have a valid mailing address to receive notification of lottery information.

The online pre-application will ask for the following **optional** information:

- Name, date of birth, social security numbers, and relationship to the head of household for all household members;
- Monthly gross income for the household (before taxes and other deductions);

Please have this information available before you start the pre-application process. The pre-application form will not allow you to save partially completed pre-applications (i.e. If you complete part of the pre-application but do not have all of the information on you, then the partially completed pre-application will be discarded and you will have to start the pre-application process from the beginning).

Will I need a social security number to apply?

Yes, the head of household will be required to have a valid social security number. Please contact Social Security now to get this process started if you do not have a number.

Do I have to live in Ada County to be eligible to apply for the waiting list?

No. However, if you do not currently live in the Ada County jurisdiction, you will be required to live here for the first year of program participation. **You must be an Idaho resident to apply to this waiting list (meaning you currently live, work, or have been hired to work in the state of Idaho).**

Can my family submit more than one pre-application?

No. Only one pre-application per family will be allowed. Families that submit more than one pre-application may be disqualified.

How do I know if my pre-application went through?

At the end of the pre-application process, you will receive a confirmation number. This number confirms your pre-application has been received.

The pre-application form is running slow. What do I do?

We are expecting a large number of applicants during the first days of opening. Therefore, the pre-application form may run slower due to heavy traffic.

Will the pre-application be available in languages other than English?

Yes, the pre-application will also be available in Spanish. If you need assistance completing the pre-application due to language barriers, please contact our office at (208) 345-4907 and we will arrange for assistance in your language.

If I fill out the pre-application form, does this mean I will receive housing assistance?

No. The pre-application will only give you a chance to be placed in the pool of applicants that will be used to select the list of 2,500 households that will be placed on the waiting list. We'll send you a confirmation letter letting you know if your pre-application was selected for the list of 2,500, and if so, your position on the list.

When will I find out if I've been placed on the waiting list?

A list of confirmation numbers that were selected for the waiting list will be posted on our website at www.bcacha.org no later than March 31, 2022. Also, if your pre-application was chosen during the lottery, you will receive a letter from us, so please make sure to use a reliable mailing address. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you do not see your confirmation number listed on the website, this means your pre-application was NOT selected for the waiting list. Your pre-application will be discarded and you will need to re-apply once the waiting list is opened again

In what order will the pre-applications be placed on the waiting list?

Pre-applications that are selected through the lottery process will be placed in the order they were selected. Households that also meet local preferences may be moved to the top of the list and served first, before other households.

How do I contact BCACHA if I'm having problems with the pre-application?

You can call the office at (208) 345-4907. Because we are expecting high volumes of phone calls during the pre-application period, please be patient. We will respond to your questions as soon as possible.

I don't understand how to fill out the information in the pre-application form. What do I do?

If you have difficulty with the pre-application process, please contact our office at (208) 345-4907. A customer service member will then help you with the pre-application process. **Please note:** Due to expected high volumes of calls, pre-application assistance may be delayed through the pre-application period. This will not affect your placement on the list since the final list is determined randomly.

I have a disability and need assistance completing the pre-application. Is there someone who will assist me?

Yes, the Housing Authority will have staff available to assist anyone who needs assistance completing a pre-application by calling (208) 345-4907. Because we are expecting high volumes of phone calls during the pre-application period, please be patient. We will respond to your questions as soon as possible.

I believe I have a disability. What is your definition of a disabled person?

In general, for the purposes of program eligibility, the definition is based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) definition which can be found at 24 CFR 100.202 but in summary must be a disability that can be verified by a health care professional licensed by the state of Idaho to both diagnose and treat the disability.

FRAUD WARNING: Agencies requesting a fee to assist you in applying are fraudulent. The application process is free and should only be accessed through our website. Please do not pay any agency who advertises guaranteed placement on the waiting list.

American with Disabilities Act- We need help to ensure that all of our programs, services, and activities are fully accessible to persons with disabilities. If you encounter any type of barrier that prevents you from receiving the full benefit of our programs, services, or activities, please contact our main office at (208) 345-4907.

It is the policy of the BCACHA to see that every individual regardless of race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, national origin, sexual orientation, familial status or disability shall have equal opportunity in accessing affordable housing.

Boise City & Ada County Housing Authorities
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Waiting List Phone Line: (208) 345-4907

