



## **GHA Fact Sheet Series**

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### **Housing Choice Voucher Program**

The Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) is the federal government's major program for assisting very low income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe and sanitary housing in the private market. Since housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments. A family that is issued a housing voucher is responsible for finding a suitable housing unit of the family's choice where the owner agrees to rent under the program. Rental units must meet minimum Housing Quality Standards (HQS) of health and safety, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the administering agency.

Housing Choice Vouchers are administered locally by public agencies. Specifically, for Galveston County (Texas), the HCV program is administered by six different agencies, totaling 1,794 rental subsidized units. The Galveston Housing Authority (GHA) administers 1,213 housing choice vouchers, with 697 of the households living on the Island and 516 living in the County of Galveston ("The Mainland").