



# OIG Fraud Bulletin

September 27, 2022

## Section 8 Housing Voucher Fraud Scheme

The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8 housing) 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.

Section 8 vouchers are administered locally by public housing agencies (PHAs) who receive Federal funding from HUD to administer the voucher program.

Qualifying properties are sometimes listed on websites such as AffordableHousing.com.

While some of these listings are legitimate, individuals inquiring about Section 8 properties should beware if the “owner” of the property wants to communicate only by personal e-mail, requires an application fee, or demands payment through third parties, such as cash app.

Protect yourself and avoid falling victim to this nationwide scam by looking out for the following red flags:

- The “owner” asks you to contact them via their personal e-mail instead of through the website or face-to-face
- The “owner” requires that you pay an application fee, which is illegal for a housing authority to do
- The “owner” asks for payment
- The URL for the website does not end in .gov, which is the most common top-level domain for government websites
- The “owner” seeks payment for the property before you have the opportunity to see the “owner” or the property in-person
- The “owner” wants you to send money before a contract is signed
- The listing does not appear on other reputable websites with Section 8 listings
- The details of the listing for the same property differ on different websites
- The “owner” has a profile with properties scattered across the country

If you believe you may be the victim of a Section 8 housing voucher fraud scheme, report it to the HUD Office of Inspector General by contacting our Hotline at 1-800-347-3735, or visit us at [www.hudoig.gov/hotline](http://www.hudoig.gov/hotline).

