



Connecticut Department of Social Services

NEWS RELEASE

Media contact: David Dearborn
860-424-5024; david.dearborn@ct.gov

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No Impact on Current Renters Seen This Year, but 20 New Subsidies Rescinded

**State's Section 8 Rent Subsidies Considered
Safe from Sequestration, for Now**

HARTFORD – Department of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner Roderick L. Bremby today expressed guarded confidence in the financial stability of the department's Section 8 rent subsidy program, despite sequestration cuts hitting the federal housing assistance program from Washington.

The State of Connecticut administers about 6,700 Section 8 rental assistance vouchers funded directly by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

“Careful management of our federal resources has resulted in the protection of our current rental subsidy clients from the sequestration reductions to HUD’s Section 8 program,” said Commissioner Bremby. “We are also stretching the available subsidy pool for current renters by suspending the issuance of new Section 8 vouchers to households on the waiting list.”

In addition, DSS and its Section 8 contractor were forced to rescind 20 subsidy vouchers to eligible clients who had not yet rented apartments. Those families have been placed back at the top of the Section 8 waiting list.

“Unfortunately, we had to pull back vouchers to 20 families who qualified for the program and came off the waiting list as other families went off the program,” Commissioner Bremby said. “We need to place a moratorium on issuing these and other new vouchers to shield households we are currently serving from having their lives disrupted by Washington’s actions.”

Commissioner Bremby cautioned that further sequestration cuts affecting Section 8 could jeopardize the subsidies now used by eligible low-income families and individuals to afford the cost of rental housing.

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“If new reduction decisions are negotiated by Congress and the White House during the upcoming months to reduce Section 8 funding, our program may have to begin a process to revoke active rental subsidies,” the Commissioner said. “We have worked hard to avoid this scenario and, at this point, we believe the program is in fairly good shape if further cuts are not made. We estimate that our reserve fund can sustain currently-leased Section 8 subsidies at least until January 2014.”

The Department of Social Services is estimating a monthly reduction of \$500,000 from the current sequestration reduction to Section 8. HUD allows states to maintain a reserve fund, and Commissioner Bremby anticipates tapping the reserve to help maintain current Section 8 clients in affordable rental housing.

HUD also funds Section 8 vouchers directly to local housing authorities. The State of Connecticut is not involved in that part of the Section 8 program.

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