
MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For more details, please contact:

Jalyn Clifford
Deputy Executive Director
315.708.7019

Syracuse Housing Authority Expands Voucher Options for Families Impacted by I-81 Viaduct Project

Syracuse, NY – August 28, 2025 –The Syracuse Housing Authority (SHA) today announced \$5 million in new Housing Choice Vouchers to support families living closest to the I-81 Viaduct as the New York State Department of Transportation’s (NYSDOT) Community Grid Project advances.

These vouchers, together with existing public housing options, are being offered to give families stability and flexibility during this transition. While not required, SHA is taking this step because we understand residents may have concerns with construction happening so close to their homes.

We are continuing to work closely with affected families to ensure they are fully informed and understand the choices available to them. Our staff will continue a door-to-door outreach campaign over the coming days, providing clear communication and offering assistance both by phone and in person. A dedicated phone line will serve as the central contact point for resident inquiries so families can get information directly.

This process is voluntary and resident-driven. While outreach is initially focused on the households closest to the viaduct, additional vouchers may be offered to other eligible households or waitlist residents if some decline.

While most voucher holders in Syracuse remain within the city, SHA is committed to working with partners to expand access to housing throughout Onondaga County, including higher-opportunity neighborhoods.





To further support this effort, earlier this week, SHA also hosted a Landlord Meet & Mingle event to highlight the important role property owners can play in this process. By joining the Housing Choice Voucher Program, landlords gain access to reliable monthly rent payments, a large pool of prospective tenants, and support from SHA staff on inspections, tenant orientation, landlord rights, and program compliance. Urban Strategies, Inc. (USI), a national non-profit organization partnering with the SHA on the East Adams Transformation, shared information about the wraparound family support services available to residents who will be transitioning from public housing into the private rental market with a Housing Choice Voucher. Through its holistic approach, USI provides families with resources and coaching in areas such as financial literacy, employment, education, health, and overall household stability. The event also featured representatives from the Onondaga County Health Department and Housing Visions, showcasing collaborative efforts to strengthen housing stability and resident support.

“Our families deserve real housing choices as the I-81 Viaduct Project moves forward,” said William J. Simmons, SHA’s Executive Director. “This effort makes clear that these household will have the opportunity to decide what’s best for them, whether that’s staying in public housing, moving with a voucher, or exploring new neighborhoods. We have always been committed to empowering residents to make their own choices, and this initiative continues that commitment.”

For more information on the Housing Choice Voucher Program or to become a participating landlord, visit www.syracusehousing.org/section8

