



Adding Family Members with Criminal Backgrounds

If you have a family member or loved one with a criminal background who you would like to add to your Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) or Project-Based Voucher (PBV) assistance, please contact your Housing Specialist to start this process. HANO's criminal background check policies and procedures allow for people with criminal backgrounds to be considered for housing assistance. An applicant with a criminal conviction is not automatically denied housing assistance unless otherwise barred by federal law. Before making a decision to admit or deny applicants with criminal convictions, the applicant will be given an opportunity to speak with a review panel to discuss their individual circumstances. This panel review would give your family member or loved one the opportunity to talk about what led to their conviction and their personal experiences.

This process applies to persons seeking admission to housing and to persons joining a family member who is currently living in HANO assisted housing.

HANO will only review **convictions** when it completes its criminal background check. Arrests will not prevent admission to the program.

HANO **must deny** assistance to applicants who fall into either of the following federally required categories:

- Are listed on a **lifetime sex offender registry**; and
- Have been **convicted of producing methamphetamine on public housing property**.

If you would like legal representation during a panel review, you may want to **contact Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS) at (504) 529-1000 for free legal help.**