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4-III.C. SELECTION METHOD: Local Preferences, Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Transition Preference (FY 2026)

A. Description of Preference

The Housing Authority establishes a time-limited, targeted local preference for households currently assisted under the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program administered by this agency. This preference is strictly restricted to active EHV participant households in good standing whose emergency voucher assistance is federally mandated to expire or sunset during Fiscal Year 2026 due to statutory funding caps or legislative expiration timelines.

B. Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for this preference, the applicant household must meet all of the following criteria at the time of selection and processing:

1. **Active Enrollment:** The household must be an active participant utilizing an EHV administered by this Housing Authority.
2. **Good Standing:** The household must be in compliance with essential family obligations under the EHV program and cannot be under an active intent-to-terminate notice for material lease or program violations.
3. **Sunset Alignment:** The household's specific EHV voucher allocation must have a scheduled expiration or funding termination date falling between mid-2026 and December 31, 2026.

C. Weight and Placement on the Waiting List

Eligible applicant households will be awarded ["the highest priority tier among all local preferences"] on the regular HCV waiting list. This placement ensures that sunseting EHV households are prioritized for selection to prevent a break in housing assistance and to eliminate the risk of the household returning to literal homelessness.

D. Verification Procedures

The Housing Authority will automatically verify eligibility utilizing internal agency software records to identify active EHV participants meeting the FY 2026 sunset criteria. Staff will facilitate a streamlined transition process, transferring existing income, asset, and family composition verifications from the EHV file to the regular HCV file to expedite lease-up and prevent administrative delays.