Families participating in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program benefit from a subsidy each month to help pay their rent and utilities. The subsidy varies for each family depending upon the family’s size and income.

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has mandated 24 jurisdictions in the country, including the Sacramento County Housing Authority (PHA), to begin using Fair Market Rents (FMRs) based on zip codes, called Small Area FMRs (SAFMRs), to establish payment standards. The Payment Standard is the maximum amount of assistance a family can receive and is based on the region’s fair market rent and funding from HUD.

This is not the maximum rent that can be charged by landlords. This is the maximum amount a family can receive, but monthly assistance may be different.

The amount of rent a landlord can charge must be “reasonable” when compared to unassisted rental units in the neighborhood with similar amenities.

The chart below shows the Payment Standard for Sacramento County zip codes and the bedroom sizes listed.

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