with disabilities and disabled families may receive a rental voucher or certificate awarded under the general use application option. However, in selecting disabled applicants from the Section 8 waiting list, HAs must provide assistance on a priority basis to nonelderly disabled persons who reside in public housing reserved for occupancy by elderly families and disabled families, or who are on the public housing waiting list and will not be housed because a public housing project has been designated for elderly families.

(d) Rental Voucher and Certificate Assistance.

(i) Section 8 regulations. HAs must administer the Mainstream Program in accordance with HUD regulations governing the Section 8 rental voucher and certificate programs.

(ii) Section 8 admissions requirements. Section 8 assistance must be provided to eligible applicants in conformity with applicable rules governing the Section 8 program including the federal preference rules, and in accordance with the terms of the HA's designated housing allocation plan where applicable, and with HUD-approved administrative and equal opportunity housing plans.

If there is an insufficient pool of persons with disabilities and disabled families on the HA Section 8 waiting list, an HA may conduct outreach to encourage eligible persons to apply for the general use Mainstream Program. Outreach may include contacting independent living centers, disabled advocacy organizations, and medical, mental health, and social service providers for referrals of persons receiving such services who would benefit from the general use Mainstream Program.

If the HA's Section 8 waiting list is closed, and if the HA has insufficient applicants on its Section 8 waiting list to use all awarded Mainstream Program rental vouchers and certificates, the HA may open the waiting list to only those who qualify for the Mainstream

Program.

(iii) Turnover. When a rental voucher or rental certificate under this program becomes available for reissue (e.g., the individual or family initially selected for the program drops out of the program or is unsuccessful in the search for a unit), the rental assistance may be used only for another individual or family eligible for assistance under this program during the five-year term of the ACC for the Mainstream Program.

(e) HA Responsibilities. In addition to normal HA responsibilities under the Section 8 programs and under HUD regulations for nondiscrimination based on handicap (24 CFR 8.28), HAs that receive rental voucher or certificate funding under the Mainstream Program must:

(i) assist program participants to gain access to supportive services available within the community, and to identify public or private funding sources for accessibility features, when participants request such assistance;

(ii) not deny persons who qualify for rental assistance under the Mainstream Program other housing opportunities for

which they are eligible;

(iii) not deny other housing opportunities, or otherwise restrict access to HA programs, to eligible applicants who choose not to participate in the Mainstream Program; and

(iv) not require eligible applicants to accept supportive services in order to participate in the Mainstream Program.

(C) Mainstream Program Allocation Amounts

This NOFA announces the availability of up to \$85.7 million of budget authority that will support approximately 2,500 rental vouchers or certificates for the Mainstream Program. The Mainstream Program includes an option for HAs to apply for rental vouchers and certificates in conjunction with submission of an allocation plan to designate public housing for elderly families. HUD will make available approximately \$42.9 million of the \$85.7 million total, to support approximately 1,250 rental vouchers and certificates, for the application option to support designated housing allocation plans. Remaining funding of approximately \$42.9 million will support approximately 1,250 rental vouchers and certificates for general use rental assistance for persons with disabilities and disabled families. In the event HUD receives insufficient approvable applications for the designated housing allocation plan option, the surplus funding will be made available to the general use Mainstream Program applicants.

(D) Application Submission Requirements for Mainstream Program in Conjunction With Submission of Designated Housing Allocation Plans

Note that a separate application is required for each application option under the Mainstream Program. An HA may request only the number of rental vouchers and certificates supported by the designated housing allocation plan, not to exceed 150. Each application must include the items identified in Section I.(D) of the NOFA, Application Submission Requirements—General,

and items in this section of the NOFA for the Mainstream Program in support of designated housing allocation plans.

(1) Approvable Designated Housing Allocation Plan

The application must include an approvable allocation plan to designate housing for the elderly in accordance with 24 CFR 945.203.

(2) Description of Need for Mainstream Program Rental Vouchers and Certificates

The application must include a description of how the rental assistance is necessary to meet the requirement of 24 CFR 945.203(6)(iv) to provide assistance to at least the number of nonelderly disabled families that would have been housed by the HA if occupancy in units in the designated project were not restricted to elderly families. HAs may not request more than the number of rental voucher and certificates necessary to meet the above obligation, up to a maximum of 150.

(3) Description of Program Implementation

The application must include a narrative description of how the HA will operate its Mainstream Program. The description must include:

(a) Eligibility. A description of which portions of the eligible population the HA will serve (i.e., nonelderly disabled families on the public housing waiting list, nonelderly disabled families currently residing in housing designated

for the elderly, or both).

(b) HA Assistance in Obtaining Accessibility Features. A description of how the HA will carry out its responsibilities under 24 CFR 8.28 to assist recipients in locating units with needed accessibility features. A description of the assistance the HA will provide to identify public or private funding sources (including any HA resources) for accessibility features such as ramps, grab bars, visual smoke alarms and fire detectors, accessible electrical controls, thermostats, and door hardware, and structural changes to dwelling units or common areas.

(c) Section 8 Counseling. A description of the assistance the HA will provide to eligible applicants to locate suitable housing in the private market. See Section V of this NOFA.

(E) Application Submission Requirements for General Mainstream Program for Persons With Disabilities

Note that a separate application is required for each application option under the Mainstream Program. An HA may request up to a maximum of 150