

GOAL 2: HOUSING – Flexibility in Section 8 Housing (February 2021 revision)

The housing challenge in Orange County is dire as more and more citizens face housing insecurity. We recommend that the Board of Supervisors take a serious and comprehensive look at Section 8 Housing with the purpose of increased help for our citizens through increased flexibility within Section 8 housing.

There are many ways this can be done including the following recommendations which are only some of the possibilities.

1. Eviction: Help prevent eviction of seniors about to lose their homes.
2. Mobile & manufactured homes: Provide Section 8 rental assistance to tenants of mobile or manufactured homes. These properties are under California Landlord-Tenant laws, just like any other property.
3. Roommates: In federal Section 8 housing, the incomes of both roommates count as joint income. We recommend that the requirements for financial eligibility be changed, allowing each person to qualify as an individual. The Housing Authority (HUD) then pays an increased rental subsidy to the Landlord.
4. Board and Care: Accept residents of board and care as recipients of Section 8 money.
5. Homeless: Increase the assistance for homeless Orange County citizens. Most Housing Authorities have a portion of their Section 8 budgets prioritized for the homeless and we recommend that this be increased.

We recommend that the Board of Supervisors use its power and influence to encourage help for our citizens during this difficult and unprecedented time.