

For standard long-term federal housing assistance like the [Housing Choice Voucher Program \(Section 8\)](#) or public housing, there is **no set time duration limit** or maximum dollar cap. Instead, assistance continues as long as the household remains eligible, with tenants paying roughly 30% of their adjusted income for rent. Short-term or emergency programs, however, carry strict caps.  HUD Excha... +1

Emergency and Short-Term Housing Limits

- **Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG):** Maximum length of time is limited to **24 months** over any 3-year period. Short-term rental assistance covers up to 3 months, while medium-term ranges from 4 to 24 months. Rental arrears are capped at a one-time payment of up to 6 months.  HUD Exchange
- **Temporary/Local Relief Funds:** State or city specific relief grants (such as past local pandemic or emergency programs) frequently restrict total combined future and arrears payments to **15 to 18 months** maximum.  Georgia Rental Assista... +1

Long-Term Federal Assistance Rules

- **Payment Caps:** Vouchers do not have a flat cash maximum; rather, local Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) set a **Payment Standard** based on local Fair Market Rents (FMR). If the rent exceeds this standard, the family pays the extra amount out of pocket. 
- **Duration and Work Rule Proposals:** While traditional programs have indefinite duration, current federal policy proposals permit local housing authorities to trial time limits (such as a 2-year minimum threshold) and work mandates for non-disabled, working-age adults. Elderly and disabled individuals remain exempt from these structural limits.  American Enterprise Ins... +3