



# Village of Skokie

January 19, 2012  
For Immediate Release

## Cook County Provides Data on Housing Choice Voucher Holders in Skokie

Cook County recently provided the Village of Skokie with client information on Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher holders in the community.

Statistics through October 1, 2011, verify previously released data that vouchers used in Skokie have declined for five years in a row. In 2006, a total of 457 vouchers were used in Skokie; in 2011, a total 429 vouchers were used in the community. This represents a 6% decrease in voucher usage. Overall, only 1.7% of the housing units in the Village use a voucher (0.8% for senior citizens, 0.9% for non-seniors).

Of the 429 voucher holders in Skokie last year, a total of 195, or 45.5%, are held by senior citizens age 65 or older. Only three voucher holders are less than 30 years old.

Of the 429 voucher holders in Skokie last year, 250 are white, 175 are black and four are either Asian, Native American or Pacific Islander. Hispanics are not included in the analysis, as Hispanics can be of any race.

The data also included information on the distribution of vouchers by census tract, showing that voucher holders are dispersed among 13 out of the total 14 census tracts in the community. Voucher use is more concentrated in two census tracts. In tract 8070, which is west of Skokie Boulevard, north of Dempster Street and south of Church Street, there are 137 voucher holders representing 6.2% of the housing stock in that census tract. In tract 8083.02, a partial census tract near Lincoln Avenue and Frontage Road, there are 14 voucher holders representing 4.2% of the housing units in that census tract. The remaining voucher holders are dispersed through 11 other census tracts in the community, with no voucher use in tract 8078, which is west of the Edens Expressway, south of Oakton Street and north of Pratt Avenue.

Section 8 of the Housing Act of 1937 first authorized the payment of federal money for rental housing assistance to private landlords. Most such payments are administered through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and are officially termed Housing Choice Vouchers. Low-income people who receive such vouchers have the right to relocate and use the voucher anywhere in the United States where a landlord agrees to accept the voucher. Landlords do not have to accept Section 8 tenants, but neither can local governments prevent recipients from using the vouchers in their communities. The Housing Choice Vouchers assist many people with lower-paying jobs to afford safe and clean housing in the Village. Although there is a perception that Housing Choice Voucher users may contribute to crime in the community, there is no evidence that there is a correlation between crime and the voucher holders.

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For additional information contact:  
Ann Tennes, Director of Marketing and Communications  
847/933-8234

### Village Hall

5127 Oakton Street  
Skokie, Illinois 60077

Phone (847) 673-0500  
Fax (847) 673-0525

www.skokie.org  
SkokieVision Municipal Cable  
1660 AM Skokie

### Council-Manager Government

|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| Mayor    | George Van Dusen    |
| Clerk    | Marlene Williams    |
| Trustees | Michele L. Bromberg |
|          | Michael M. Lorge    |
|          | Donald P. Perille   |
|          | Randall E. Roberts  |
|          | Pramod C. Shah      |
|          | Edie Sue Sutker     |
| Manager  | Albert J. Rigoni    |
| Counsel  | J. Patrick Hanley   |

### Awards and Distinctions

All America City Finalist  
American Public Works Association  
(APWA) Accreditation  
Commission on Accreditation for  
Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)  
Commission on Fire Accreditation  
International (CFAI)  
Fitch IBCA AAA Financial  
Bond Rating  
Gold Level Clean Air Counts  
Community  
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