

Good Afternoon,

My name is Joseph Poulin and I'm the lead housing navigator at Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter and services. I am also a veteran and have worked with the veteran population in some capacity for 12+ years. Today I want to discuss a topic that's not only crucial for our community but also for the well-being of many individuals, families and veterans- [Accepting Housing Vouchers](#).

_____ First and foremost, I want to acknowledge the vital role that landlords play in our housing ecosystem. Your contributions provide safe and stable homes for countless people, and for that, we are deeply grateful. Housing vouchers are designed to assist low-income families and individuals as well as veterans, the elderly and individuals with disabilities in affording decent, safe, and sanitary housing. These vouchers are a lifeline to many. They provide guaranteed rental payments and reduce vacancy rates. Over the last few years I can tell you 50% or more of the private landlords I have spoken with do not accept assistance, and many property management companies as well. We are not saying landlords must accept a tenant just because they have a voucher, we just want those folks who have a voucher to be included not excluded from the tenant pool.

I understand that there might be concerns about accepting housing vouchers, such as potential bureaucratic hurdles, or tenant reliability. However, these concerns can be mitigated through [proper tenant screening](#) and by working closely with local housing authorities. I urge you to consider the positive impact that accepting housing vouchers can have, not only on the lives of individuals and families in need but also on our community as a whole. By opening your doors to voucher holders, you are not just providing a home, you are offering hope, stability and a chance at a better future.

Thank You for your time, and I hope you will join us in this important endeavor.