

Rent Estimate Calculator

Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency

Management Innovation: Technology

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Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency's website, www.ohfa.org, serves as a primary source of information and program resources. OHFA worked with external developers create a totally redesigned and retooled website that would help the Agency to fulfill its mission of "providing housing resources with an eagerness to serve." This version represents the first-ever complete overhaul of the website, including content and structure. OHFA launched the new version of its site June 1, 2021.

In the past year, OHFA added a Rent Estimate Calculator to the website. This application allows Housing Choice clients and landlords to estimate rent payments without completing an Excel spreadsheet. In addition to being linked in various areas of the website, the calculator can be accessed at this direct link:

<https://www.ohfa.org/housingchoicevoucher/rentestimatecalculator/>

Management Challenges and Opportunities

For several years, Housing Choice Voucher clients and landlords utilized an Excel spreadsheet with formulas to estimate rental payments. This tool took OHFA customers several steps forward from a static PDF. Changes to various browsers often left the tool nearly useless.

Housing Choice Voucher staff and OHFA's webmaster worked together to find a solution that would again make the tool useful again. With the help of OHFA's website developer, a Rent Estimate Calculator was created and launched earlier this year.

Innovation and Replicability

Key innovations:

- In conducting research of other public housing agencies and similar entities, we saw very few calculators of this nature embedded into a website.
- The calculator works regardless of the type of browser being used.

Replicability – Any HFA with a need to have end users calculate estimated rent payments would be able to implement a similar product.

Achieving Measurable Improvements in Agency Operations

Anyone with access to OHFA's website has the capability to use this innovative tool, regardless of their browser or device.

Benefits That Outweigh Costs

The tool cost OHFA \$1,000 to implement, nominal considering the thousands of Housing Choice Voucher clients who participate with OHFA.

End Results

The end result is an approachable, easy-to-use calculator.