

Information Packet

Avenú at Natick

An Affordable Housing Lottery Natick MA

This packet contains specific information on the affordable housing program and application process for the affordable rental units being offered at Avenu at Natick, a community for older persons.

The Town of Natick and Avenu at Natick invite you to read this information and submit an application if you think that you meet all eligibility requirements.

Please hold on to this packet until you have leased a unit as it will be a useful guide throughout the entire process.

The first units are scheduled for occupancy in October, 2019.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED BY 2 PM, ON AUGUST 26TH, 2019. APPLICATIONS POSTMARKED BY THE DEADLINE MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 5 BUSINESS DAYS FROM THE DEADLINE.

Additional Applications available at the Morse Institute Library, the Bacon Free Library, and www.s-e-b.com/lottery.

Avenu at Natick

For Affordable Unit Information call (617) 782-6900

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For TTY Dial 711

Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible



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There be an Informational Workshop at 6 pm on July 16, 2019 in the Community Room in the Morse Institute Library, Natick (14 E Central St), where questions about the lottery and the development can be addressed directly. The lottery will be held at 6pm on September 18, 2019 in the same location.

GENERAL OVERVIEW AND RENTS

First units will be ready in October, 2019. Avenu at Natick is 164 unit rental apartment community for older persons (62+ years) located at 1125 Worcester Street, Natick. Seventeen (17) of these apartments will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the Area Median Income **where at least one member of the household is age 62 or older**. The rents are set annually using a calculation that determines the “affordable” rent, which is based on the Area Median Incomes for the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy HMFA. For a **description of the units and the development** please read page 19. The unit mix is:

# of Units	# of Bedrooms	# of Bathrooms	Approximate Size (subject to change during construction)	Rent* (does not include utilities)
1 <i>(this unit is adapted for Hearing Impaired)</i>	Studio	1	725 sq ft	\$1,465*
9	1	1-1.5	797 sq ft	\$1,657*
7 <i>(2 of these units will be Disabled-Accessible)</i>	2	2	1170 sq ft	\$1,836*

*** Tenants are responsible for paying the full amount of rent each month. Rents are not based on each applicant’s income** (unless they already have a Section 8 voucher or similar). Tenants will be responsible for paying Electric Cooking, Electricity, Water and Sewer. Gas Heating and Gas Hot Water are included in the rent. The rents are set annually using a calculation that determines the “affordable” rent, which is based on the Area Median Incomes for the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy HMFA.

Since it is possible that there will be more interested and eligible applicants than available units, the Town and the Developer will be sponsoring an application process and lottery to rank the eligible applicants for the program. The application and lottery process as well as the eligibility requirements are described in this information packet. Avenu at Natick does not discriminate in the selection of applicants on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, ancestry, children, familial status, genetic information, marital status, public assistance reciprocity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran/military status, or any other basis prohibited by law. Persons with disabilities are entitled to request a reasonable accommodation in rules, policies, practices, or services, or to request a reasonable modification in the housing, when such accommodations or modifications may be necessary to afford persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to use and enjoy the housing.

Q: How long will the designated apartments remain affordable?

A: As a **current resident only**, you are considered income eligible for an affordable unit as long as your household earns an income that does not exceed 140% of the current applicable income limit for a household of your size (see *Yearly Eligibility and Rent Review*). Additionally, the rents may change yearly based on changes in Area Median Income and Local Utility Allowances. If the AMI increases or the utility allowances decrease, the rent may increase a few percentage points as allowed in the Regulatory Agreement.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Q: Who is eligible to apply for the affordable units in Avenu at Natick?

A: In order to qualify for an affordable unit:

- 1.) Households must have income and assets that qualify within the parameters as highlighted in this section.
- 2.) **At least one resident of the home must be at least 62 years old.**
- 3.) Household priority will be given based on household composition. For questions on household size and composition, please read "**Household Size and Composition**".
- 4.) Households cannot own a home, including in a trust, upon move-in. All homes must be sold before leasing a unit.
- 5.) Households, or their families, cannot have a financial interest in the development and a household member cannot be considered a "Related Party."

Additionally, two units will be disabled accessible and one unit will be accessible to households with hearing impairments. All households may apply for these units but households in need of a unit features will get top priority, regardless if the unit is designated as local preference or not. For questions on priority by need of the unit features, please read "**Disabled-Accessible and Hearing Impaired Unit Information**".

Q: What are the income eligibility requirements?

A: To be eligible to lease an affordable unit, annual household income must be within a particular range, set by maximum and minimum income levels as follows:

Maximum Income

Household Size	Maximum Income Limit
1	\$62,450
2	\$71,400
3	\$80,300
4	\$89,200

To be eligible to apply to lease an affordable unit, the combined annual income for all income sources of all income-earning members in the household must be at or below 80% of median income for Boston-Cambridge-Quincy HMFA. **All sources of income are counted, please see details below.**

Minimum Income

Per the Leasing Office's policy that is also in place for market-rate apartments, the rent to income ratio required to lease a unit is 40% (i.e. applicant's monthly income must be approximately 2.5 times the monthly rent). Applicants may make less than the minimum incomes shown below if they have sufficient savings from which they can draw down otherwise, applicants will not be found to be eligible for a lease if they make less than the incomes shown below. **Applicants who have receive a housing subsidy (like Section 8) are not subject to the minimum income requirements** but, like all other applicants, will also have to pass reviews on credit scores, tenant history, and criminal background checks in accordance with DHCD's requirements regarding same. Please see "Leasing Office Review" in the step-by-step process for more details. Again, these minimum incomes are not required by the affordable housing program, they are just estimations of minimum incomes required by the leasing office.

Unit Size	Approximate Minimum Income Limit for households without a housing subsidy
Studio	\$43,950
1 BR	\$49,710
2 BR	\$55,080

Q: How is a household's income determined?

A: A household's income is the total anticipated amount of money received by ALL members of the household over the next 12 months (starting from the date of application and projecting forward 12 months) based on their current income and assets. In an effort to provide as accurate an income estimation as possible, the Lottery Agent will also review historical income data to provide a basis for future income estimates. Any monies you anticipate receiving in the next 12 months will be counted as income and monies received over the previous 6 months will be analyzed to help estimate future income. This includes, but is not limited to, Social Security, alimony, child support, overtime pay, bonuses, unemployment, severance pay, part-time employment, matured bonds, monies to be received in court settlements, and actual or imputed interest and dividends on bank accounts and other assets. **ALL SOURCES OF INCOME ARE COUNTED** with the exception of income from employment for household members under the age of 18 and any income over \$480/year for full time students who are dependents (but note that all such income must still be documented even if it is exempt from the household income calculation).

It will be assumed that all applicants will continue to receive any monies they have received over the past 12 months unless supporting documentation proves otherwise. It is also not up to the household to determine what monies received over the past year should and should not be counted as their calculated income. Therefore, all monies should be listed on the application and the inclusion of these monies in determining a household's eligibility will be based on affordable housing guidelines.

Allowable Assets

There is no asset limit for applying households for this development. However, the higher of the actual income earned from assets, or the imputed income of 0.06% of all assets, will be counted as income. Household Assets are calculated at the time of application. Assets may include cash, cash in savings and checking accounts, net cash value of stocks, net cash value of retirement accounts (such as 401k), real property, bonds, and capital investments.

If any household member currently owns property, the total amount of equity in the home shall be added to their total value of assets.

Example: A household has \$8,000 in savings, \$30,000 in a retirement account that they are not drawing down from (\$20,000 net cash value) and a home assessed at \$300,000 on which they currently have \$278,000 remaining on the mortgage (\$22,000 in equity).

<i>Their assets total is:</i>	$\$8,000 + \$20,000 + \$22,000 = \$50,000$
<i>Actual Income from assets is:</i>	$\$300 + \$0 + \$0 = \300 (A)
<i>Imputed Income at 0.06% is:</i>	$0.06\% \text{ of } \$50,000 = \30 (B)

For this household, \$300 would be added to their income they receive from all other income sources (employment, Social Security, Alimony etc.) as the program takes the greater of (A) actual income from assets OR (B) imputed income from assets.

Q: I cannot withdraw money from my 401k or retirement fund, do I have to include it when I list my assets?

A: Yes. You need to include the *net cash value* of all your current retirement funds. We realize that most retirement funds assess large penalties for early withdrawal but this does not technically mean that you “cannot” withdraw your funds. The post-penalty amount is what you need to provide along with supporting documentation.

Q: If I cannot qualify for a Lease based on my own income or credit history, can I have a co-signer on my Lease?

A: No. Only people who will live in the unit can sign the lease. Applying households must be able to meet the income qualifications on their own. If someone outside the household is going to help pay the rent, the amount to be paid must be listed as “Periodic Payments” on the Income Table in the Program Application. These payments will be counted towards the applying household’s income. Guarantors will NOT be allowed.

Q: Do I have to be a resident of the Town of Natick to apply?

A: No. All households that meet the income guidelines specified above may apply for an affordable apartment. Applicants that meet the Local Preference requirements will be given the opportunity to lease some, but not all, of the affordable apartments first. Please see the section on Local Preference for more details.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND COMPOSITION

Q: How is appropriate household size determined?

A: According to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development guidelines:

Within an applicant pool, priority as set forth below, shall be given to households requiring the total number of bedrooms in the apartment based on the following **criteria**:

1. There is at least one occupant and generally no more than two occupants per bedroom (based on State Sanitary Code).
2. A married couple, or those in a similar living arrangement, shall be required to share a bedroom. Other household members may share but shall not be required to share a bedroom.
3. A person described in the first sentence of (2) shall not be required to share a bedroom if a consequence of sharing would be a severe adverse impact on his or her mental or physical health and the lottery agent receives reliable medical documentation as to such impact of sharing.

Please also note that households with disabilities must not be excluded from a priority/preference for a larger unit based on household size if such larger unit is needed as a reasonable accommodation.

The following household sizes and compositions will be considered appropriate for the following apartment sizes:

TYPE II (*Priority for a 2-Bedroom Unit*)

- All 4 person households
- All 3 person households
- 2 person household: 2 heads-of-household under criteria 3 (described above)
- 2 person household: 1 head-of-household plus one member

TYPE I (*Appropriately sized for a Studio or 1-bedroom unit and may apply for a 2-bedroom unit, but will not receive a priority for a 2-bedroom unit*)

- 2 person household: A married couple, or those in a similar living arrangement (unless covered under criteria 3 above)
- 1 person household: all types

In Step 1b: The Lottery, you will find a detailed explanation on how priority is given to certain household sizes and compositions.

Q: Does the unborn child of a currently pregnant household member count towards our household size for income eligibility purposes?

A: Yes. A household may count an unborn child as a household member. You will have to submit proof of pregnancy with all the income and asset documentation that needs to be submitted with your application.

Q: Can a Type I Household apply for a two-bedroom apartment?

A: Yes, however, that Household will not have top priority for that unit. Please see “The Waiting Lists” for how order will be given from the Lottery Results.

Q: If I am currently going through a divorce/separation or planning on being divorced / separated soon, can I still apply?

A: For non-homeowners, you will need to provide proof that the separation or divorce process has begun or has already been finalized. The **Program Application** will guide you through the documentation you will need to provide.

If you have only begun considering a divorce or separation, and no legal action has been taken, you cannot apply as a single head-of-household and your application will be reviewed as if your current spouse will be moving into the affordable apartment with you. **For homeowners going through a divorce**, the home must be sold or the divorce must be finalized (as you must be off the deed) before you move-in.

Q: Can a five or six person household apply for the two-bedroom apartment?

A: Usually occupancy is based on two people per bedroom unless the family requests a specific size unit. Household size must then comply with unit size based on the current State Sanitary Code Minimum Square Footage Requirements. Maximum number of occupants may be increased based on State Sanitary Code. Acceptance of a unit at maximum occupancy does not give the resident the right to claim overcrowded conditions and request a transfer to a larger unit.

STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Q: What is the application, selection, and move-in process for the affordable units in the Avenu at Natick?

A: The process is essentially a **two-step** process.

The first step is to qualify for the Affordable Housing Program and be given a position on the Waiting Lists.

The second step is to be found Lease Eligible and reserve a unit (and unit availability will be determined by your position on the Waiting Lists).

The following pages explain each step in greater detail.

Step 1a: Applying for the Housing Program

Through August 26th, 2019

Step 1b: The Lottery

September 18, 2019

Step 1c: Waiting Lists

Established the night of The Lottery

Step 2a: Notification of Lottery Results and Lease Application Invitation

1-4 days after the lottery

Step 2b: Leasing Office Review and Unit Selection

1-14 days after the lottery

Step 2c: File Update

Required for households moving into units coming online 6+ months from the lottery

Yearly Eligibility and Rent Review

30-90 days prior to lease renewal

There will also be an Informational Workshop at 6 pm on July 16, 2019 in the Community Room in the Morse Institute Library, Natick (14 E Central St), where questions about the lottery and the development can be addressed directly.

Step 1a: Applying for the Affordable Housing Program

Once a household reads this Information Packet in its entirety, they will need to fill out a Program Application. The applying household must include all income, asset, tax and all other documentation as directed by the Program Application for every person that will be residing in the apartment. The Program Application must be signed and dated.

The Program Application and Required Documentation must be delivered, or postmarked, by 2 pm on August 26th, 2019. Applications post-marked by the deadline must be received within 5 business days. All applications should be sent to:

SEB Housing
Re: Avenu at Natick
257 Hillside Ave
Needham, MA 02494
info@sebhousing.com
Fax: 617.782.4500

To ensure applications arrive in time, we recommend sending them in at least a week prior to the application deadline. **Late applications will not be accepted- NO EXCEPTIONS!** If you want to ensure your application is received, we recommend sending it by certified mail. The Lottery Agent, Management Agent, Owner and other affiliated entities are not responsible for lost or late applications.

Once a completed Program Application is received with ALL Required Documentation, SEB will determine initial eligibility and compliance.

If the applicant is determined to be eligible for the Lottery, they will receive an **Application Number** in the order in which their completed application was received. The purpose of the Application Number is simply to keep all household's names unknown when the Application Numbers are drawn at the lottery.

Households that are deemed ineligible by the Lottery Agent will be notified by mail (or by email if an email address is provided).

Entrance into the Lottery does not guarantee that a household is eligible for an affordable apartment. Please read all of the following steps for further details on the review process.

Q: What happens if I don't submit all necessary documentation or fail to correctly complete my Affordable Housing Program Application?

A: Households that submit incomplete documentation will be mailed a notice detailing the additional documentation that is needed to make their application complete. Their application will remain in an "Incomplete Application Pool" until all requested materials have been received. Households with applications in the Incomplete Application Pool will not be entered into the Lottery.

Step 1b: The Lottery

The Lottery will be held on September 18, 2019 at 6 pm. Households are encouraged to attend but do not need to be present for the Lottery drawings. All Households will be notified of the results by the Lottery Agent.

There will be one lottery with two Drawings*, a Local Preference Drawing and an Open Drawing. For Local Preference households, Application Numbers are placed in both Drawings. For all other households, Application Numbers are placed only in the Open Drawing.

*A third minority Drawing will be required to add non-local preference minority households into the local preference drawing if the minority representation in the local preference pool is not 27.0% or higher. Please see the bottom of pg. 17 for those details.

The Application Numbers of households who qualify for disabled-accessible apartments will be added in with the other Application Numbers in the Open Drawing and (when applicable) the Local Preference Drawing.

For the Lottery, a representative from the Town will pull Application Numbers from a box. The Application Numbers are randomly and placed in the order drawn on the Lottery Result List.

The order drawn does not necessarily reflect the order that households will get to select apartments as Application Numbers of smaller households are mixed in with Application Numbers of appropriately sized households.

Regardless of the order drawn, all households of appropriate size for each apartment size will be given the opportunity to lease an apartment before any smaller household.

For example: A one-person household is the first household drawn in the Lottery. They will be given the first opportunity to lease a one-bedroom apartment. However, if they wish to lease a two-bedroom apartment, they will have to wait until all appropriately sized households (including those drawn after them in the Lottery) are given the opportunity to lease a two-bedroom apartment.

To help clarify the actual order that applicants will be given the opportunity to lease apartments, Waiting Lists will be created from the Lottery Results Lists (*see next step*).

Step 1c: The Waiting Lists

The Waiting Lists will be compiled immediately after the lottery and sent to all lottery applicants. **The separate Waiting Lists created from the two Lottery Results Lists illustrate the order in which households will choose units based on unit size, household size, household composition, and local preference.** The position each household has on the Waiting Lists is determined by the order in which their Application Number is drawn in the Lottery relative to households of similar qualifications (i.e. households of “appropriate size” will be added to the Waiting Lists in the order drawn in the Lottery and then smaller households will be added in the order originally drawn.) *Please see “Household Size and Compositions” for details on Household Types II and I shown below.*

The 5 Waiting Lists

Local Preference Units*

Waiting List #1 for nine (9) 1BR apartments

Top Tier: All Local Preference Households (with no priority among household type)

Bottom Tier: All Non-Local Preference Households (with no priority among household type)

Waiting List #2 for two (2) 2BR apartments

Top Tier: Type II Local Pref. Households

Second Tier: Type II Non-Local Pref. Households*

Third Tier: Type I Local Pref. Households

Bottom Tier: Type I Non-Local Pref. Households*

**Please see the last Q&A on page 17 that details on how non-Local Preference households will be given the opportunity to reserve units designated for Local Preference.*

Open Pool Units

Waiting List #3 for three (3) 2BR apartments

Top Tier: Type II Households

Bottom Tier: Type I Households

Disabled-Accessible Units

Waiting List #4 for two (2) 2BR DA units

Top Tier: All Type II Households requiring the features of these units

Bottom Tier: All Type I Households requiring the features of these units

Hearing-Impaired Units

Waiting List #5 for one (1) Studio HI unit

Top Tier: All Type II and Type I Households requiring the features of this unit

Step 2a: Notification of Lottery Results and Lease Application Invitation

The Lottery Results establish the Waiting Lists. Every household with an Application Number will have a position on at least one Waiting List. Households that qualify for every lottery will have a position on every Waiting List.

Leasing Offices typically need to screen 3 to 4 times as many applicants as there are units in order to find enough qualified tenants for their available affordable units. Therefore, from each Waiting List, approximately 3 to 4 times as many households as there are units available for that Waiting List will be invited to move immediately forward in the process of completing a Lease Application (see next step).

All households invited to move forward in the process must complete a lease application by the given deadline date (the first deadlines will be approximately 7 days after the lottery date) or they will be removed from the Waiting List.

Households approved for leases will remain on the Waiting Lists. Households are removed from the Waiting Lists if the Leasing Office deems that they are not eligible for a lease based on their Lease Application, if a household fails to meet future deadlines for documentation submittal and lease signing, or if a household notifies the Leasing Office that they are no longer interested in leasing an apartment.

No fees will be charged for processing the Lease Applications for the affordable units.

As more households will be required to complete the Leasing Office Review than units available, some households may complete the Leasing Office Review and will not be given the chance to reserve one of the affordable units. The property will also notify these households that they are not currently being offered a unit but will remain on the Waiting Lists.

Households applying for the 1BR and 2BR affordable units may need to complete a Unit Selection Preference worksheet as there is more than one 1BR and one 2BR affordable unit available.

Households with positions lower on the Waiting Lists will have to wait for the removal of households with a higher position than them before being given an opportunity to lease an apartment. If more households are needed to reserve all units, households will be notified at least 5 days in advance of the date they must go to the Leasing Office for lease screening. Failure to complete a Lease Application by the given date will result in the removal of their Application Number from the Waiting List.

Step 2b: Leasing Office Review and Unit Selection

The Lease Application review will be the same review that households for market-rate apartments undergo, where factors such as Employment history, Credit score/reports, Former lease history, Criminal Background Screening and sufficient income are considered.

The unit a household applies for must be an apartment size that corresponds to the Waiting List from which they were chosen. A household with an appointment for a 1BR apartment because of a top position on that Waiting List cannot apply for a 2BR apartment.

Local Preference units will be reserved first using the Local Preference Waiting Lists. Households with no other households ahead of them on their Waiting List will be notified by the Leasing Office that a unit is available to them and they will be given 3 business days to reserve an available unit.

Upon move-in, the resident pays their first month's rent.

Please note, a criminal background does not necessarily disqualify a household. Background checks will meet DHCD's Model Policy Regarding Applicant Screening on the Basis of Criminal Records. In any instance where policy and procedures in the Property Manager's Policy differ from the policy and procedures in the DHCD Model Policy, the policy and procedures of the DHCD Model Policy will be followed. The specifics of the Criminal Background Screening will be provided by the Leasing Office at this step.

Q: If I cannot qualify for a Lease based on my own income or credit history, can I have a co-signer on my Lease?

A: No. Only people who will live in the unit can sign the lease. Applying households must be able to meet the income qualifications on their own. If someone outside the household is going to help pay the rent, the amount to be paid must be listed as "Periodic Payments" on the Income Table in the Program Application. These payments will be counted towards the applying household's income. Guarantors will NOT be allowed.

Step 2c: File Update (applicable for applicants with move-in dates after March 18, 2020)

Households with move-in dates prior to March 18, 2020 will skip this step. Some units may not be ready for occupancy prior to March 18, 2020 so some households may be reserving units for move-in after March 18, 2020.

As all income and asset documentation must be 60 days current from the date of request and approximately 6 months current at the time of move-in, households with move-in dates more than 6 months from the lottery date will be required to re-submit income, asset and tax documentation to SEB prior to move-in.

All households must maintain affordable housing eligibility until they move in!

Once a household has been approved by the Leasing Office, given a move-in date and reserved a unit, SEB will contact them about preparing for this File Update. The File Update will be done approximately 60 days prior to their move-in date. Households failing to complete the File Update, or households who are found to be program ineligible at their move-in date, will not be allowed to move into their affordable apartment.

YEARLY ELIGIBILITY AND RENT REVIEW

Approximately 90 days before lease renewal, you will need to submit updated income and asset documentation to the Leasing Office so they can ensure that you are still under the maximum income guidelines. You will not be able to renew your Lease until you have submitted all required documentation. You should maintain records of your taxes, pay-stubs, bank statements and asset statements while living in the affordable unit. Maintaining records makes this yearly review very simple.

Q: How long can I lease my affordable unit?

A: As a **current resident only**, you are considered income eligible for an affordable unit as long as your household earns an income that does not exceed **140% of the current year's income limit** for a household of your size.

Using the Current Income Limits as an example:

Household Size	Current Income Limit for New Applicants (80% AMI Units)	Income Limit for Current Tenants (140% of Current Income Limit)
1	\$62,450	\$87,430
2	\$71,400	\$99,960
3	\$80,300	\$112,420
4	\$89,200	\$124,880

According to the table above for the years shown, if a household's income exceeds the Income Limit for Current Tenants at the time of their renewal, their unit shall still remain affordable until the next available market rate unit with the same or greater number of bedrooms is rented at an affordable price. Once this market rate apartment becomes newly deemed as affordable, the apartment that was previously deemed affordable can subsequently be rented at market rates. The household with earnings exceeding the Income Limit for Current Tenants can choose to stay in their apartment, yet would then have to pay the market rate rent.

Q: Will my rent increase each year, and if so, by how much?

A: Rents may increase a few percentage points if Natick Area Median Income increases or the costs of utilities decreases (as allowed in the Regulatory Agreement). Likewise, if the Natick Area Median Income decreases and the costs of utilities increases, **rents may decrease**.

LOCAL PREFERENCE INFORMATION

Q: What is Local Preference?

A: The Town of Natick has established a local preference for 70% of the affordable apartments. Local Preference will be given as described in The Lottery in the step-by-step process. An applicant qualifies for local preference if the applicant or a member of their household fit into one of the following categories:

- An individual or family maintaining a primary residence within the Town of Natick
- An individual who is employed by Town of Natick
- An individual who works for a business located in Natick
- A household with children attending Natick schools

Q: Do households which meet all Local Preference criteria get priority over households which meet only one?

A: NO. As long as a household meets any one of the Local Preference criteria, they will qualify for Local Preference.

Q: Does Local Preference take priority over household size/composition?

A: No. For example, on the Waiting List for the 2BR Local Preference units, if there are not enough eligible Type II Local Preference Applicants, the units will be made available to a Type II Non-Local Preference household before being made available to a Type I Local Preference Household who would be over-housed in a 2BR unit. Please see the way the Waiting Lists are compiled in the section on Waiting Lists.

Q: What if a household does not qualify for Local Preference?

A: Households without Local Preference will be entered into the Open Lottery and will be given positions on the Waiting Lists based on where they are drawn in the Open Lottery drawing. Non-Local Preference households will also be given positions on the Local Preference Waiting List to ensure that need of a unit sizes get appropriately addressed (see question above, and the Waiting Lists on pg 12).

Adjustments in the Local Preference Pool

As stated by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, "If the percentage of minorities in the local preference pool is less than the percentage of minorities in the surrounding HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) defined area, the following adjustments will be made to the local preference pool. The Developer will hold a preliminary lottery comprised of all minority applicants who did not qualify for the local preference pool and rank the applicants in order of the drawing. Minority applicants should then be added to the local preference pool in order of their rankings until the percentage of minority applicants in the local preference pool is equal to the percentage of minorities in the surrounding HUD-defined area." The Percent Minority for the Metropolitan Statistical Area of Boston is 27%. This is the minimum percentage of minority applicants that is the goal for the local preference pool. Minority applicants are defined as a person who is a member of the following groups: Black or African American; Asian; Native American or Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; or other (not White); and the ethnic classification Hispanic or Latino.

DISABLED-ACCESSIBLE AND HEARING IMPAIRED UNIT INFORMATION

Q: Who qualifies for a disabled-accessible (DA) unit or unit for people with vision/hearing impairments?

A: According to *Mass Access: The Accessible Housing Registry*, “units that are barrier-free are accessible to people with disabilities that are wheelchair users, but could also be used by people of different types of disabilities. For example, a person of very short stature, a person with a brain injury or stroke, severe cardiac or respiratory problems, or a person with limited standing, walking, or reaching ability, may use the design features of a wheelchair accessible unit.” Verification from a doctor or other medical professional, a peer support group, a non-medical service agency, or a reliable third party who is in a position to know about the individual’s disability may be requested. But documentation submitted must specify that the household needs the features of an accessible or hearing-impaired unit, as applicable.

Q: How are disabled-accessible and hearing-impaired units awarded?

A: There are separate Waiting Lists for these apartments. The households with the top positions on these Waiting Lists will be given the first opportunity to lease the units that match the features.

Q: Can households that qualify for an accessible or hearing impaired unit also apply for a unit without those features?

A: Yes. Households who apply for units with the special features will also be on the waiting lists for the units without those features. If they reach the top position on a Waiting List for a unit without special features before they reach the top position for a unit with the special features that meet their need, they will have to decide if they want to lease a unit with the features they need or wait until they have a top position on a Waiting List for a unit with features that matches their disability.

Q: What happens if there are fewer disabled-accessible or hearing impaired applicants than disabled-accessible or hearing impaired units at the time of the Lottery?

A: If there are not enough qualified applicants on the Waiting Lists for the units with special features, the units will be made available to the highest applicants on the Waiting Lists still waiting for units of the size available.

Q: Who is entitled to request a reasonable accommodation?

A: Persons with disabilities are entitled to request a reasonable accommodation in rules, policies, practices, or services, or to request a reasonable modification in the housing, when such accommodations or modifications may be necessary to afford persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to use and enjoy the housing. To request a reasonable accommodation, please email info@sebhousing.com or call 617-782-6900 x1 or postal mail SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494

Avenu at Natick Description

Avenú at Natick is a 164 unit facility containing 17 affordable units which will be available to households with at least one member who is age 62+. The property will feature over 12,000 SF of indoor amenities centered around a great room, signature fireplace element, and social bar area with views out to an expansive 16,000 SF landscaped courtyard complete with an outdoor pool, grilling area, cabanas, and lounge spaces. Other on-site features for residents include a first-class chef's kitchen and private dining room, state-of-the-art theater, on-site spa, and first-class fitness center complete with a space for wellness and yoga classes.

Avenú at Natick's unit finishes will be finished in light neutral materials with an open-floor plan complimented by a fresh contemporary feel. Floors will be a vinyl plank, wood-look system with a light and dark option which will alternate between the units. All units will feature white, European style kitchen cabinets with quartz countertops providing a marble-like finish. All kitchens are anchored by a quality stainless steel appliance package. Glass pendant lighting will highlight the central meeting space around kitchen islands with additional feature lighting extending into the bathrooms. Bathroom shower will be enclosed with a sleek, frameless glass door system and units including a full second bath will include an easy to maintain tub. Bathrooms will feature quartz counter tops and a distinct mosaic tile floor system. Bedroom spaces will feature broadloom carpeting with spacious walk-in style closets in a majority of units. Units are pet friendly (pet restrictions apply). One parking space is included in the rent shown above.

Services available to tenants at Avenu include the following:

- Continental Breakfast each morning (catered)
- Fitness programming
- Weekly Happy Hours and Social Gatherings
- Monthly Events
- Concierge Services
- Weekly gardening activities during growing season (32 weeks a year)

Avenu at Natick is smoke free and pet friendly

All affordable units will have one designated surface parking spot included in the rents shown in this information packet.