

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: Monday, November 16, 2020

Subject: Metro HRA Moving to Work Program Application Submittal

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 24 CFR, Part 982

Staff Prepared/Presented: Terri Smith, Director, Housing and Redevelopment Authority, (651-602-1187)

Division/Department: Community Development/ Metro HRA

Proposed Action

None at this time. The purpose of this item is to conduct a public hearing to inform a future action on the submittal of an application for the Moving to Work Program to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Background

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has the authority to designate agencies administering federal rent assistance as Moving to Work (MTW). Agencies with MTW designation are granted program flexibilities to design and test innovative strategies and seek exemptions from program rules to test more efficient ways to administer federal rent assistance.

The Metro HRA's goals of obtaining MTW designation are to expand housing choice, create efficiencies in service delivery, and shift the focus from administrative process to family success. This designation would provide the Council's HRA with great flexibility to operate the Housing Choice Voucher program in a less administratively burdensome manner.

Congress authorized an MTW expansion to an additional 100 agencies. The Metro HRA submitted a Letter of Interest in June 2019 and has now been invited to submit a full application for the MTW expansion program under Rent Reform. A public hearing is required to receive comment on the proposed full application submittal.

Two resident engagement meetings were held the last week of October to receive comment on the application submittal. Nearly 200 Housing Choice Voucher holders attended. Comments from the engagement meetings and received during the public comment period will be shared with the Committee at the December 7, 2020 meeting, when a formal action item will be considered.

The Moving to Work Plan and application materials can be found at [Metro HRA Moving to Work Plan](#).

Rationale

A public hearing is required to receive comments prior to submittal of an application for the MTW Program expansion.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The MTW designation request would support the Thrive outcomes of equity, livability, and stewardship. By using a Thrive Lens, discretionary policies of the HRA promote equity and choice, while ensuring that the federal resources to fund the Housing Choice Voucher Program are maximized to serve families efficiently.

Funding

Funding for the Housing Choice Voucher program is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. An MTW designation would provide flexibilities in how federal funds are spent.

Known Support / Opposition

The purpose of this action item is to conduct a public comment process that will reveal support and concerns about the application submittal.