Mobility Program History and Background

- Research by Chetty and Hendren, 2015, Harvard University
  - Do neighborhoods matter for economic mobility?
    - Children who moved to low-poverty areas when young do much better as adults:
      - 30% higher earnings
      - 27% more likely to attend college
      - 30% less likely to become single parents
      - But... moving had little effect on the outcomes of children who were already teenagers
      - Moving also had no effect on parents’ earnings
  - Shows that exposure to better neighborhood during childhood is what matters most

- Families may face barriers in placing their voucher in a neighborhood of their choice
  - Financial barriers
  - Inadequate time to find a unit
  - Landlord unwillingness to rent to a voucher holder
  - Limited awareness of neighborhood amenities such as high performing schools
Mobility Programs

• Agencies across the country have implemented housing mobility programs to help reduce barriers of families with vouchers to live in neighborhoods of their choice including areas with:
  – High performing schools
  – Access to jobs
  – Low crime
  – Parks and other amenities

• The Council’s Metro HRA implemented Community Choice in December 2015
  – Mobility related services include:
    • Landlord Recruitment
    • Pre-Move Counseling
    • Housing Search Assistance
    • Post-Move Counseling
Mobility Programs and Research

• Seattle and King County Housing Authorities recently conducted a randomized control trial
  – Offered a set of housing mobility related services to some voucher holders
  – Report indicates provision of mobility-related services helped create strong gains in the number of families that moved to opportunity areas
  – The evidence makes a strong case that mobility programs are worth federal investment

• HUD is now expanding the research to see whether a selected set of services achieve similar results

• HUD is offering up to $50 million for the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Program
  – Offer mobility-related services to a control group of vouchers holders to encourage them to move to lower poverty areas.
Mobility Demonstration Program Application

- Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) also operates a mobility program
- Metro HRA and MPHA have been working together for several years to align programs, policies and systems
- Metro HRA and MPHA are also working towards obtaining a regional Moving to Work status to provide flexibility in program operation
- Metro HRA and MPHA intend to submit a joint application for Mobility Demonstration Program funds.
  - Stronger application together
  - MPHA will be the Lead Applicant
  - Metro HRA will be the Program Administrator
Proposed Organizational Chart

MOBILITY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM
PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

HUD
Mobility Demonstration TA Provider and Research

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Dev. (HUD)

LEAD APPLICANT
MPHA

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
Metro HRA

MPHA Director of HCV
Kyle Hanson
Asst Director of HCV
Brandon Crow

Director, Metro HRA
Terri Smith
Asst Director, Metro HRA
Stephanie Paulson

ADMINISTRATION AND EVALUATION STAFF
.10 FTE Assistant Director of Finance
.25 FTE Data Analyst

PROGRAM OPERATIONS
MOBILITY STAFF
Program Manager (1)
Mobility Counselors (6)
Support Staff (1)
Business Systems Analyst 3 (.10)
Principal Researcher (.10)
Considerations

• One strategy to support upward mobility of voucher holders
• No federal funds to date for voluntary mobility programs
  – Current Community Choice program supported by Council general fund and HCV administrative fees
• Allows expansion of Community Choice program, supported by federal funds
• There are 1,000 additional vouchers available for this purpose across the country
• Improves housing choice for voucher holders
Next Steps

• Submit formal application to HUD by October 13, 2020
• HUD announces awards in December 2020
• HUD expects to award $4 million - $10 million to 5-10 agencies
  – Very competitive application process
• Demonstration will be effective for a 6-year period
  – First year is a planning year that will include public process
Action

• That the Metropolitan Council adopt Resolution No. 2020-17, affirming and asserting:
  – its interest in participating in the U.S. Department of Housing Urban Development’s Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration program;
  – the willingness to comply with all applicable requirements, the evaluation, and the reporting requirements; and
  – authorizing the Director of the Metropolitan Housing and Redevelopment Authority, to sign and submit the funding application for the Mobility Demonstration Program.
Mobility Demonstration Program

Questions?

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