

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: July 19, 2021

Subject: Metro HRA Mobility Demonstration Program

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 24 CFR Part 983

Staff Prepared/Presented: Terri Smith, Director, Metro HR, (651) 602-1187 and Stephanie Paulson, Assistant Director, Metro HRA, (651) 602-1584

Division/Department: Community Development/ Metro HRA

Proposed Action

None. Information Only.

Background

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) and the Metropolitan Council's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Metro HRA) \$5.2 million under the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration. The Demonstration builds on recent research that shows growing up in neighborhoods with lower levels of poverty improves children's academic achievement and long-term chances of success.

The program will support Metro HRA and MPHA in addressing barriers to increasing housing choices by offering mobility-related supports. The program will also include a rigorous, independent evaluation to determine which supports are most effective in helping families achieve success. In addition to the program funding, each agency was awarded 74 new vouchers to support the effort.

The MPHA is the lead applicant and Metro HRA will act as the program administrator. This will include hiring a team of mobility program staff, operating the program, and relying on its existing voucher mobility experience to provide services for voucher families with children, including:

- Landlord Recruitment
- Pre-Move Counseling
- Housing Search Assistance
- Post-Move Counseling

In addition to offering mobility-related services, the agencies will work together to adopt administrative policies that enable housing mobility, increase landlord participation, and reduce barriers for families to move across jurisdictions. The program will assist voucher holders in moving to an area of their choice which often includes, but is not limited to, areas where families with vouchers have been historically excluded.

HUD awarded a total of \$45.7 million to nine lead public housing authorities. The program will provide more than 10,000 families with children better access to low-low-poverty neighborhoods with high-performing schools and other strong community resources.

The Demonstration will run for a 6-year period ending October 2028. The first year is a planning year that will include program design, weekly meetings with HUD technical assistance team, hiring mobility team staff, collaboration with other Demonstration agencies, and community and resident engagement.

At the Community Development meeting, Council staff will provide an overview of the recently awarded Mobility Demonstration, what it involves, related timelines, and engage in discussion with Committee members.