

Information Item

Community Development Committee



Meeting Date: August 1, 2022

Topic

2023 Public Housing Agency Plan

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	24 CFR Part 982 & 983
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Stephanie Paulson, Assistant Director, (651) 602-1584
Division/Department:	Community Development, Housing & Redevelopment Authority

Background

The Metropolitan Council is required to adopt a written Administrative Plan that establishes local policies for administration of the Housing Choice Voucher program through the Council's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Metro HRA). The [2022 Administrative Plan \(draft\)](#) is the Metro HRA's main policy document that becomes an attachment to the [2023 Annual PHA Plan \(draft\)](#) which is open for public comment.

Council staff are not recommending significant changes to the Administrative Plan this year. The purpose of this information item is to have discussion and update the Committee on the progress of the Metro HRA's goals as outlined in the PHA Plan. The primary updates include:

- The Community Choice Demonstration Program
- Emergency Housing and Mainstream Vouchers
- Homework Starts with Home
- HCV Homeownership Program

The Community Choice Demonstration Program

The Metro HRA and Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) were one of nine sites selected nationwide to participate in the Community Choice Demonstration Program. 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 Metro HRA and MPHA have adopted administrative policies that will enable housing mobility and reduce barriers for families. Our site will be one of the first to begin the pilot phase of the Demonstration in August 2022. The HRA Manager of Outreach & Special Initiatives along with the project lead for the Demonstration plan to present at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting to provide more detailed program updates.

Emergency Housing and Mainstream Vouchers

The Emergency Housing Voucher program is fully referred and as of June 30, 2022, the Metro HRA has leased 94 of the 218 Emergency Housing Vouchers. HRA staff plan to present an information item in August 2022 to the Committee providing more detailed updates about the Emergency Housing Voucher program.

In June 2022, the Metro HRA was awarded 50 additional Mainstream Vouchers, bringing the total number of Mainstream Vouchers awarded to the Metro HRA up to 253. The Metro HRA will work with the Metro Transit Police Homeless Action Team (HAT) to accept referrals for these newly allocated

vouchers. HRA staff plan to present an information item in late 2022 to the Committee providing more detailed updates about the Mainstream Voucher program.

Homework Starts with Home

The Metro HRA recently adopted a waiting list preference to commit 20 turnover vouchers per calendar year to Solid Ground via the Homework Starts with Home program. This preference aligns with the Metro HRA's goal for investment-in-place strategies. Currently, 19 of the 20 vouchers are in use promoting housing stability for recent graduates of the Homework Starts with Home program.

HCV Homeownership

In 2022, the Metro HRA met with a PHA currently operating a Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership program along with two potential partnering agencies. Metro HRA staff also attended a national training in May 2022 to gain a certification in the HCV Homeownership program. The Metro HRA will continue to explore the implementation of this program in the coming year. Details that will need to be finalized to implement this program include the creation of a guiding document for HCV Homeownership policy and process and continued exploration of partners to provide necessary services (financial counseling, credit repair, homeownership education).

