

Information Item

Community Development Committee



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Meeting Date: September 18, 2023
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Topic

Voucher Holder Residential Preferences Study

District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: None
Staff Prepared/Presented: Terri Smith, Director, Metro HRA, (651) 602-1187
Sarah Gong, Researcher, (651) 602-8437
Division/Department: Community Development

Background

The Council's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Metro HRA) and the Council's Research department are partnering, along with Minneapolis Public Housing Authority and St. Paul Public Housing to conduct a Residential Preferences Study. The study will explore the kinds of homes and neighborhoods that low-income households want for themselves, the kinds of homes and neighborhoods they actually live in, and identify gaps between them.

The objectives for the study are to:

- Understand what influences an individual household's preferences in housing
- Gain an understanding of the extent to which a voucher holder's locational outcomes are influenced by their own preferences and choices versus structural barriers and program parameters
- Examine how to help voucher holders satisfy their residential preferences
- Understand how preferences, outcomes, and barriers vary across race/ethnicity and/or immigration status and/or household size.

The council hired a consultant to conduct the study which will include surveys, in-depth interviews, and focus groups with voucher holders in the core cities and suburban locations.

The purpose of this information item is to provide an overview of the study, give an update on work to date and provide a timeline for completion and next steps.