

Community Development Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 23, 2020

Subject: Metro HRA Mobility Demonstration Program – Resolution 2020-17

Proposed 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.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

There was a comment suggesting we broadly share the research report from Chetty and Hendren, [Impacts of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility](#) showing that exposure to better neighborhood during *childhood* is what matters most in terms of upward mobility for children. It is worth mentioning the report findings are primarily based on the experiences of white children. We know that experiences for children of color are different. The program would support families who want to move to new neighborhoods but have historically been excluded from some neighborhoods. The HRA team works with person-centered approaches to determine unique needs of each family.

The item passed unanimously.

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: Monday, September 21, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 23, 2020

Subject: Metro HRA Mobility Demonstration Program – Resolution No. 2020-17

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Federal Register Notice FR-6191-N-01; Council Policy 3-2-2 (Income/Grants)

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

Division/Department: Community Development/ Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Proposed Action

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Background

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is offering up to \$50 million for the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration program, authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Acts, 2019 and 2020. The primary purposes of the demonstration are to provide voucher assistance and mobility-related services to families with children to encourage them to move to lower-poverty areas, to expand their access to opportunity areas, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies pursued under the demonstration.

The Council's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Metro HRA) has operated Community Choice, its Mobility Counseling program, since December 2015. The program purpose is to assist Housing Choice Voucher families with children in accessing resource-rich areas of the region through providing mobility-related services and supports, including:

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

The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) also operates a Mobility Program. The Metro HRA and MPHA have been working together for the last several years to align program policies, components and services with the end goal of combining mobility programs. Voucher holders are moving between the City of Minneapolis and suburban communities regularly. Combining programs rather than burdening families with administrative process of moving across jurisdictional lines has been a goal of the two agencies for many years. This also falls in line with the goal of obtaining a Regional Moving to Work designation through HUD. For these reasons, the Metro HRA and MPHA intend to submit a joint application

under the Mobility Demonstration Program. The intention is to have MPHA be Lead Applicant and Metro HRA be the Program Administrator.

Prior to this federal funding opportunity, there has been no federal money available for this purpose. The Metro HRA program has been funded through the contribution of \$200,000 each year from the Council's general fund and federal administrative fees provided as part of the ongoing operation of the Housing Choice Voucher program. The mobility services currently provided to voucher families is constrained by the limited financial capacity as compared to the large number of families that the Metro HRA serves overall. This funding opportunity would allow deeper and broader mobility supports.

According to [*The Effects of Exposure to Better Neighborhoods on Children: New Evidence from the Moving to Opportunity Project*](#), "growing up in neighborhoods with lower poverty levels improves children's academic achievement and long-term chances of success and reduces intergenerational poverty".

As the Metro HRA continues to explore strategies to support overall upward mobility of voucher holders, this program would be one strategy under this upward mobility umbrella. The purpose is to help families access areas and neighborhoods they have historically be excluded from, provide mobility-related supports to help families access housing in a place of their choice, and help them overcome barriers to success. The program would expand the number of the families served, using the current Community Choice model.

HUD expects to make approximately 5-10 awards, with expected announcements in December 2020. The minimum per-application funding award will be \$4 million; the maximum will be \$10 million. The Demonstration will be effective for a 6-year period, ending on October 1, 2028, based on the start date of the program. The first year of the program would be a planning year.

Rationale

The Mobility Demonstration Funding program provides opportunity for the Metro HRA to receive additional Mobility Demonstration Vouchers and funding for mobility-related services through HUD. As part of a complete application to the Mobility Demonstration program, HUD requires a board resolution evidencing the applicant's support for the application.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Mobility Demonstration program supports the Thrive outcomes of equity, livability, and prosperity by assisting voucher families in moving to an area of their choice and providing mobility-related supports towards achieving success.

Funding

Funding for the Mobility Demonstration program will be provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, should the Metro HRA be selected as a grantee.

Known Support / Opposition

None.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55101
RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 17

RESOLUTION STATING THE COUNCIL'S INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN HUD'S HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER MOBILITY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM WITH THE MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE METROPOLITAN HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO SIGN AND SUBMIT A MOBILITY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FUNDING APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL.

WHEREAS, The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) and the Metropolitan Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Metro HRA) have agreed to partner for the purposes of the Mobility Demonstration program. The two parties have agreed that both MPHA and Metro HRA will provide mobility-related services.

WHEREAS, the two parties have agreed that MPHA will be the Lead Applicant for the Mobility Demonstration Program and that MPHA will receive the mobility-related services funding.

WHEREAS, applicants are required to evidence their interest in participating in the demonstration, and must agree to comply with all applicable grant, evaluation, and reporting/recordkeeping requirements described below:

Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements

Federal Audit Reporting

MPHA and Metro HRA will submit performance and financial reports under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance and program instructions. MPHA and Metro HRA acknowledge that since the total Federal share of the Mobility Demonstration Program award will be more than \$500,000, they may be subject to post award reporting requirements reflected in 2 CFR part 200, appendix XII-Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.

Public and Indian Housing Information Center (PIC) Reporting

MPHA and Metro HRA will follow the HUD requirements for Public and Indian Housing Information Center (PIC) Reporting under the Mobility Demonstration Program grant guidelines. This may include using new program codes on line 2n of Form HUD-50058 (e.g. MDV). The Council agrees to 100% of PIC reporting for the Mobility Demonstration Vouchers (MDVs), including submission of voucher issuance date and voucher expiration date.

Voucher Management System Reporting

MPHA and Metro HRA will follow HUD guidance for reporting MDV Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and unit months leased, and mobility-related service expenditures in the Voucher Management System (VMS).

Reporting on non-HUD Funds

MPHA and Metro HRA will follow HUD guidance on reporting related to the use of non-HUD funds contributed to the demonstration.

Performance Reporting

MPHA and Metro HRA will submit, at least annually, a report documenting achievement of outcomes under the purpose of the program and the work plan in the award agreement.

Race, Ethnicity, and other Data Reporting

MPHA and Metro HRA will provide HUD funded program benefits to individuals or families to report data on the race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, and family characteristics of persons and households who are applicants for, participants in, or beneficiaries or potential beneficiaries of HUD programs in order to carry out the Department's responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act, Executive Order 11063, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Section 562 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

With this resolution, the Metropolitan Council affirms and asserts its interest in participating in HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration program; its willingness to comply with all applicable requirements, the evaluation, and the reporting requirements described above; and authorizes the Director, Housing and Redevelopment Authority, to sign and submit the funding application on behalf of the Metropolitan Council.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Charles Zelle, Metropolitan Council Chair

Liz Sund, Recording Secretary