



Moving to Work: Innovation and Flexibility to Address America's Affordable Housing Challenges

- Moving to Work (MTW) agencies continue to provide the housing assistance needed by the families they serve, while also expanding the opportunities available to these households.
- Extending MTW flexibility and regulatory waivers detailed in this report to all public housing authorities will maximize the impact of federal resources, continue to meet the needs of households in federal housing programs; and provide opportunities to achieve more financial self-reliance for those who are able.
- The MTW program allows participating public housing authorities to develop local alternatives to many of the rules that typically apply to federal housing voucher and public housing programs and allows flexibility in the use of federal funds.
- It is essential for local agencies to be provided with the flexibility to choose the options that show the greatest success in their communities. This helps to provide opportunities to improve the quality of life for families, seniors, individuals with disabilities, transitional-age youth and veterans with low income or experiencing homelessness. As local agencies make these decisions, they continue to be held accountable by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, local governing bodies and their communities at large.
- Several successful MTW initiatives have been expanded to public housing agencies at a national level.
- The MTW program was established in 1996 and extended in 2015 by Congressional actions with strong bipartisan support, signed into law by President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama, respectively.
- This report highlights examples of innovative initiatives MTW agencies across the country have implemented to provide more opportunities and assistance to families with low income.
- These initiatives include:
 - MTW Funding flexibility to create innovative programs
 - Alternative rent policies to promote more financial self-reliance among program participants
 - Locally designed Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Programs
 - Local Housing Choice Voucher Payment Standards
 - Alternative approaches to income verification
 - Expedited interim recertifications of household income, including providing rent relief during COVID-19
 - Alternative methods for required voucher briefings for new families
 - Alternative approaches to completing federal Housing Quality Standards inspections
 - Expanded eligibility age for the Family Unification Program to extend services
 - Local Total Development Cost (TDC) Limits that reflect local construction costs