

## **Moving To Work Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is Moving To Work (MTW)?**

MTW is a demonstration program that offers public housing agencies (PHAs) the opportunity to design and test innovative, locally designed housing and self-sufficiency strategies for low income families.

### **Why is Charlotte participating in the MTW demonstration program?**

Participating allows CHA to receive certain exemptions from existing Public Housing and tenant-based Housing Choice Voucher rules, as well as permits the agency to combine operating, capital and tenant-based assistance funds into a single agency-wide funding source.

### **Do PHAs in the MTW Demonstration receive additional funding?**

No. Under the MTW Demonstration, PHAs receive funding that is equivalent to what they would have received had they not participated in MTW.

### **What is the purpose of the demonstration program?**

The purpose of the program is to give PHAs and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the flexibility to design and test various approaches for providing and administering housing assistance that accomplish three goals:

- Reduce cost & achieve greater cost effectiveness
- Give incentives to families with children where the head of household is working, seeking work or preparing for work by participating in job training programs, educational programs, or programs or programs that that assist families obtain employment and become economically self sufficient and:
- Increase housing choices for low – income families

### **How was CHA selected to participate in MTW?**

At the time that HUD was authorized to implement the demonstration program, there were a total of 30 slots available for public housing agencies to participate. The Charlotte Housing Authority made application to participate in the program and was selected. The CHA entered into a full MTW Agreement with HUD on December 21, 2007. There are now 39 housing agencies participating in the demonstration program.

### **What is the difference between Moving To Work and Moving Forward?**

There is no difference. CHA has branded the local effort as Moving Forward, which reflects a combination of shared intent, forward movement, and the image of affordable housing as a safety net and platform for rebuilding lives.

### **How long will CHA participate in Moving To Work?**

The MTW Agreement is the official agreement between HUD and the PHA that authorizes HUD to allow PHAs to participate in the MTW program. CHA's agreement is for 10 years, however, HUD has modified the initial agreement extending the 10 year period. It will expire March 31, 2018.

### **How can public housing residents and Section 8 participants participate in Charlotte's Moving Forward Initiative?**

There are several ways in which stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the Moving Forward initiative.

- 1) Ideas or suggestions for exploration/implementation are sought year round. These must meet one of the three goals listed under the purpose of the demonstration program. Call the MTW Coordinator at 704.432.5557.
- 2) Invite CHA MTW staff to community meeting/gathering.
- 3) Attend the Resident/Participant Annual Planning Session (look for signs in property management and administrative offices, as well as newsletters beginning July)
- 4) Review of the annual plan each fall. (30 day public review period – distributed to property management offices of CHA managed sites, CHA administrative office building, the main branch of the public library and Old City Hall and CHA website, [www.cha-nc.org](http://www.cha-nc.org) – Oct - Nov). The purpose of the Annual Plan is to provide local stakeholders and HUD with a clear understanding of the Agency's activities for the coming fiscal year.
- 5) Read the Annual Report on the CHA website (June). The purpose of the Annual Report is to describe the agencies activities and progress in achieving our long term goals, as well as the objectives and performance measures in the Annual Plan for the corresponding fiscal year.
- 6) Contact your community president or public housing residents may contact the president of the Resident Advisory Council (RAC) and Section 8 participants may contact the president of the Participant Advisory Committee (PAC).

### **Where can individuals see what initiatives CHA has already implemented?**

The entire Annual Plan and Report are available online year round. Hard copies may be viewed at the CHA Administrative site at 400 East Boulevard.

### **How does CHA know if what they are doing is working?**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Center for Urban and Regional Studies will be measuring the impact of the Charlotte Housing Authority's Moving Forward Program. The information from the evaluation will help the CHA make mid-course corrections in their initiatives, address the questions and concerns raised about the MTW program by others in the Charlotte community, and provide HUD with the information on the impact of the CHA's MTW program.

### **How will CHA determine future goals/proposed initiatives?**

As issues or challenges relating to housing continue to face our community CHA will continue to work with other agencies, partners, stakeholders and staff to develop solutions to address these issues or challenges.