

Overview of Moving To Work

In December 2007, the Charlotte Housing Authority (CHA) became one of 39 housing authorities across the country participating in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) "Moving to Work" (MTW) demonstration program. MTW allows CHA to test innovative methods to improve housing services and better meet local needs. Participating agencies receive exemptions from many public housing and Section 8 voucher rules and are allowed more flexibility in how Federal funds are used.

CHA has branded the local effort as Moving Forward. The brand emphasizes the importance of redefining public perceptions about affordable housing and the residents it serves through programs and partnerships that show a shared purpose among residents, CHA, and community stakeholders.

Moving Forward Progress in the Charlotte Community

Statutory Objective #1 - Cost Savings and Effectiveness

- Investment policies, consistent with state law, have been adopted to achieve a portfolio which is safer, more liquid, and obtains competitive yields.
- Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspection waiver was obtained for newly constructed Project-Based Section 8 units with a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) as a substitution of the initial or move-in inspection.
- Biennial Reviews for all CHA households.

Statutory Objective #2 – Incentives for Self-Sufficiency

- Rent calculation formula modified to provide a financial incentive for participants to increase their earnings.
- Moving Forward Supportive Services to assist the work requirement is being phased into communities which requires the Head of Household to work full time (30 hrs or more per week). Elderly and disabled are exempted.

- Partnerships with community partners to implement Youth Initiatives.

Statutory Objective #3 – Increase Housing Choices

- A strategy and a policy have been adopted to increase the acquisition and rehabilitation of existing multifamily properties.
- Resident Safety Initiatives that reduce crime incidents in public housing communities.
- Funds outside of Section 8 and 9 have been authorized to acquire general partnership interest; construct mixed-income housing; renovate, construct and operate supportive housing; implement a local rental subsidy program and convert units to public housing.
- Site-based waiting lists (public housing and Project Based Section 8).

- Participant and Landlord Tracking to encourage deconcentration of tenant based vouchers.
- Good Neighbor Training for all CHA families

Evaluating the Success of Moving Forward

The Center for Urban and Regional Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill is conducting an evaluation of the Moving Forward initiative to report on the processes, outcomes, and impact on the agency and the customers. CHA is measuring the employment rate for able-bodied residents receiving Moving Forward Supportive

Services(MFSS); number of family members in training/education receiving MFSS; increase in average and median income of families receiving MFSS; amount of funds leveraged in the community for affordable housing and supportive services; number of children who enter post secondary education; increase in the number of CHA students receiving benefits from the Charlotte Housing Authority Scholarship Fund (CHASF) Program; number of public housing units in mixed-income environments; and the distribution of public housing units and project-based vouchers by zip code (deconcentration).

http://www.cha-nc.org/living/moving_forward.asp

