



Mobility Works is a national nonprofit membership organization that provides technical assistance in designing and implementing housing mobility programs. Our technical assistance collaborators include three leading housing mobility programs (the Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership, the Inclusive Communities Project, and Housing Choice Partners) and the Poverty & Race Research Action Council.

Our services focus on assistance with the following key steps in developing a housing mobility program:

Basic steps toward a comprehensive housing mobility strategy

- 1** Developing a profile of existing distribution of Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) families, in relation to regional rental market and neighborhood poverty concentration; identifying opportunities through market analysis.
- 2** Engaging key stakeholders and, if possible, other public housing authorities (PHAs) in the region in a joint effort.
- 3** Establishing an “opportunity map” or “mobility map” with targeted neighborhoods, based on low poverty rates and access to high-performing schools, employment opportunities, public health and environmental factors, etc.
- 4** Selecting a target population to prioritize for a mobility program (we recommend existing HCV families with young children living in high-poverty neighborhoods).
- 5** Establishing program-wide deconcentration metrics (target percent reduction of HCV families with children in high-poverty neighborhoods and target percent increase in low-poverty or “opportunity” neighborhoods).
- 6** Selective adoption of Small Area FMRs (at 110% payment standard) in high-opportunity ZIP codes to expand access to available units.
- 7** Reviewing portability protocols to ensure regional access for clients; exploring inter-PHA portability agreements where necessary.
- 8** Reviewing PHA HCV policies to promote mobility (expedited inspections, expanded search time, improved apartment listings and client briefings, etc).

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Developing a basic plan for a housing mobility program:

- If not staffing the program internally, identify potential mobility contractor(s)
- Determine number of families to be served
- Set annual goal for moves to target neighborhoods
- Clarify staffing needs for
 - client workshops
 - landlord outreach
 - community tours
 - housing search assistance
 - post-move counseling
- Develop RFP if necessary and select contractor
- Develop performance contract based on annual moves goal
- Draft briefing materials, forms, protocols, and job descriptions
- Develop budget
- Train program staff on family recruiting – including pre-recertification contact with families – and mobility counseling
- Train program staff on landlord outreach, recruitment, and retention
- Establish procedures for interorganizational collaboration and participant referrals
- Prepare and deliver briefings for prospective participants

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Community outreach and education (also works in early development stage of program).

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Identifying potential funding sources and conducting outreach where appropriate:

- federal (when funding is available)
- state housing agency
- local (CDBG)
- philanthropic & corporate funders

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Planning for monitoring and evaluation to ensure that appropriate program and family outcomes data are tracked.

For more information on Mobility Works services contact:

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