

## **HOW IT BEGAN**

Federal housing programs and agencies were developed in the 1930s to alleviate housing hardships caused by the Great Depression. However, public housing provided separate and unequal opportunities for white and non-white residents. This confined Black residents to poor, racially isolated neighborhoods, while white residents lived in nicer units in wealthier parts of town. Starting in the 1960s and 1970s, with the Civil Rights Movement, Black residents across the country began suing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to end the segregation. Housing mobility programs arose from those cases to increase selfdetermination and access for affected families.

Housing mobility
programs established
or in development
around the country



Federal investment in housing mobility has included \$53M for the Community Choice Demonstration and \$25M for Housing Mobility-Related Services grants



Housing mobility programs expand options for lowincome families, particularly those with Housing Choice Vouchers, and help them move from neighborhoods with concentrated poverty and all its challenges into safe, comfortable communities with high-performing schools

For low-income adults, a move from a high-poverty to low-poverty area results in long-term improvements to health and wellbeing <sup>1</sup>



Common features of housing mobility programs include individualized coaching, housing navigation, family financial assistance, landlord incentives, streamlined voucher administration, and landlord-tenant mediation

For their children, such a move made at birth leads to an average increase in lifetime earnings of \$212,000 <sup>2</sup>

- 1. Neighborhood Effects on the Long-Term Well-Being of Low-Income Adults
- 2. Creating Moves to Opportunity: Experimental Evidence on Barriers to Neighborhood Choice

MOBILITY PROGRAM PIONEERS

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