

THIS INITIATIVE IS NOW CLOSED

Chicago Housing Authority Demonstration Program and Special Initiatives Overview

Match Unit Mobility Counseling Program (Approved February 2015)

Overview

This Match Unit Mobility Counseling Demonstration Program will allow individuals from the Public Housing Wait List (as of December 2014) to self-select to participate in receiving a housing choice voucher to move to an Opportunity or General Area. Individuals who are uninterested in moving to the defined areas would be returned to the public housing wait list. Participants will receive mobility counseling through the existing mobility counseling contractor and post move services through the regional FamilyWorks provider for a period up to two years. This demonstration will match units to units being rehabbed at Altgeld Gardens up to 218 over four years or longer if the development process is limited or interrupted.

New CHA acquisitions or PRA units that are in opportunity or general areas will count towards the overall number of 218, which may decrease the number participating in the mobility counseling demonstration.

While CHA anticipates meeting the matched unit agreement in four years, the timing will be contingent upon: 1) the number of vouchers that CHA has available; 2) any delays or interruption in CHA redevelopment activities at Altgeld Gardens through actions such as court filing or failure to reach agreement on section 106; or 3) any currently unknown situations that would impact the redevelopment.

Purpose Why was this program created?

As a condition of rehabbing units at Altgeld Gardens in blocks 7 & 8, CHA has agreed to match units in general or opportunity areas. CHA is also interested in using the Mobility Counseling program to further evaluate mobility counseling services.

Eligibility Who can participate?

- Families with at least one child on the public housing wait list who self-select to participate in the demonstration as a result of a special invitation and consent. The consent will indicate that that in order to receive the voucher they must move to an opportunity or general area. Those who are unwilling to consent will be returned to the public housing wait list. Those who are housed as a result of this demonstration will be removed from the public housing wait list.
- CHA may request through the MTW process, to implement a work requirement as part of this demonstration.

Process What is the process for housing?

- Families with at least one child on PH waitlist (as of December 2014) would receive an invitation to participate in the demonstration program. Invitations will be sent based on position on the waitlist, in batches, according to slots for the year.
- Families interested would be required to send a signed consent form to Resident Services indicating that they understand the participation requirements (in order to receive the voucher

they must move to an opportunity or general area). This consent would inform the individual that the voucher is for participation in this program only and a decision to not participate would require a return to the PH waitlist. The voucher would not be available to use anywhere but a general or opportunity area.

- Interested participants would then attend an HCV briefing and meet with Mobility Contractor.
- Mobility Counseling agency will conduct the housing assistance and provide mobility counseling
- The mobility contractor will complete a pre-inspection of units to flag potential issues that may increase the inspection process.
- Upon unit identification, the mobility contractor will work closely with HCV and Resident Services to ensure smooth process.
- For any port outs (to Cook or other counties), the mobility contractor would be required to assist the participant through the process including unit selection.
- All Families in the program would receive post move services for two years through the FamilyWorks program.

Administration What are the next steps required for implementation?

- Upon exhaustion of first preference in Administrative Plan, issue letter of invitation to all households with families who were on the public housing wait list as of December 16, 2014 based on wait list order.
- Amend current mobility contractor's scope of work and budget to include the demonstration. No additional board action/authorization is required due to existing authorization.

Timeline When will the program take place?

- The program will be presented to the CHA Board of Commissioners for approval in February 2015
- April 2015 invitation letters will be sent to target population based on order and annual slots available.
- Anticipate 50 participants to be housed in 2015, 70 in 2016, 60 in 2017, and the remaining units needed in 2018.