CHA Mobility Areas Map — Frequently Asked Questions

When determining eligibility for Exception Payment Standards and Landlord Incentive Payments, the Chicago Housing Authority is changing from Opportunity Areas to Mobility Areas and have issued a revised map.

What is the effective date of this map?
The new Mobility Areas map (see reverse side of this flyer) will be used for all rent determinations that are completed on or after March 1, 2018.

Why are you changing the map?
To increase the number of areas in which a voucher holder may be able to receive an Exception Payment Standard, therefore expanding access to previously unavailable neighborhoods.

What is the difference between the two maps?
The new map of Mobility Areas is based on Community Area data, whereas the previous map of Opportunity Areas was based on census tract information.

How did you determine which areas were Mobility Areas?
The definition of a Mobility Area is a Community Area where less than 20% of resident families have income below the poverty level and there is a below median reported violent crime count (normalized by the area’s total population), or an area with improving poverty and violent crime rates along with job opportunity clusters.

Does this new map impact the cap on Exception Payment Standards of 150% of Fair Market Rent?
No, the 150% Fair Market Rent cap on Exception Payment Standards is not impacted by this change.

Will all Mobility Areas be eligible for Landlord Incentive Payments?
Yes, for all new moves into units located in Mobility Areas, a Landlord Incentive Payment (one-time lump sum payment equal to the Contract Rent) will be issued to the property owner.

What if my unit was located in an Opportunity Area, but is not in a Mobility Area?
In this scenario, the participant will continue to be eligible for an Exception Payment Standard, if needed due to a rent increase, as long as the participant remains in the unit. However, all future participants moving into this unit (or other units in these areas) will not be eligible for an Exception Payment Standard nor will the property owner receive a Landlord Incentive Payment.

What if my unit is located in a Mobility Area, but was not in an Opportunity Area?
In this scenario, the participant will be eligible for an Exception Payment Standard, if needed due to a rent increase. Moreover, any new move that takes place into this unit (or other units in these areas) will be eligible for both an Exception Payment Standard (participant) and a Landlord Incentive Payment (property owner).

Do I need to participate in the Mobility Counseling Program to be eligible for Exception Payment Standards and Landlord Incentive Payments?
No, you do not need to participate in the Mobility Counseling Program to be eligible for these benefits.

CHA Customer Call Center: 312-935-2600 • www.thecha.org/mobility
Community Areas with 20% or less poverty and less than median reported violent crimes (.87 per 100 community area residents), or areas with improving poverty and violent crime rates along with significant job opportunity clusters (over 200 jobs per census block).