



## Section 8 Bill Tied To Opportunity Zones

A bipartisan group of senators proposed legislation that would bolster the Trump administration's Opportunity Zone initiative by increasing Section 8 housing voucher values and mobility for poor families to compete for more expensive housing.

The proposed Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act (S-291) would authorize a pilot demonstration program to help families holding voucher to move to areas with greater opportunities.

The pilot would require public housing authorities to submit a regional housing mobility plan detailing how a proposed group would assist families in moving to higher opportunity areas.

It would authorize HUD to award demonstration program funds on a competitive basis and give priority to regional collaborations among PHAs that have higher concentrations of voucher holders in poverty neighborhoods and an adequate supply of moderately-priced rental units in higher opportunity neighborhoods with an existing Family Self-Sufficiency Program or a strong regional collaboration including one or more small PHAs.

Five years after implementation of the demonstration program HUD would be required to evaluate the program to determine the most cost-effective methods to move families to higher-opportunity areas.

While the initiative would cover all higher opportunity areas, the bill lends credence to the Opportunity Zone program, an intentional move to make it palatable to Republican conservatives who resent the breadth and cost of the Section 8 program.

Regardless, the measure likely will get resistance in the Senate; but if passed, it likely would succeed in the House. It is sponsored by Sens. Todd Young (R-IN), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Roy Blunt (R-MO), and Maggie Hassan (D-NH).

**Info:** Read the bill at [www.cdpublications.com/docs/9617](https://www.cdpublications.com/docs/9617)