



Section 8 Mobility Demo Launch Funded

Low-income housing advocates succeed in getting congressional approval and funding for a Section 8 housing voucher mobility program demonstration following a long-term campaign to gain recognition for the concept.

The pilot program is intended to break up clustering of Section 8 voucher holders in high poverty neighborhoods because the value of their vouchers can't compete with the higher rents in more affluent neighborhoods.

Congress approved the mobility demonstration concept in the HUD FY 2019 appropriations bill and gave the three components a total of \$28 million for startup costs.

The three components include:

- **\$20 million** for housing mobility support services and operating regional mobility program. Public housing authorities will use the money to help families access high opportunity neighborhoods by offering services such as landlord outreach, housing search assistance, financial coaching, and post-move support.
- **\$5 million** for 500 new vouchers for families with children participating in the demonstrations. About 500 new vouchers will give PHAs an incentive to participate. The vouchers also will be a first step toward addressing the drop in the number of families with children receiving vouchers.
- **\$3 million** for research to determine the most cost-effective program components.

Congress puts HUD on notice to draft guidelines defining terms and specifying policies for the demonstration, draft a notice of funding availability outlining the requirements for PHAs to apply for the demonstration, begin working on a research evaluation design and select a contractor to conduct the research, and issue an order of funding availability and begin the selection process.

As part of the competition for funding, PHAs and their partners must submit a Regional Housing Mobility Plan that identifies the strategies they would adopt for their local mobility program, and the families they would target for services.

2/22/19 1:18 PM