

Secretary Carson Introduces Find Shelter Tool to Help Community Members Locate Service Providers and Local Resources

Last week, Secretary Ben Carson introduced the [Find Shelter tool](#), a new resource developed by the Department to help individuals and families in need to locate nearby resources. Specifically, users of the tool can search for facilities that provide shelter, clothing, health clinics, and food pantries for those in need. Find Shelter provides mapping and contact information for these service providers, and the site is optimized for mobile use. An FAQ flyer for the tool may be found [here](#).



“The Find Shelter website is another tool with which we can relieve homelessness and provide people with the resources they need,” said Secretary Ben Carson. “Particularly as we continue to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, it’s important to make sure individuals and families know where to go to get help.”

The tool is designed to help community members serve their neighbors in need. Particularly during the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a surge in [Neighbors Helping Neighbors](#) across the country, which has been an important force in serving vulnerable Americans. The Find Shelter tool will only bolster this effort to get people the help they need. The site includes downloadable, printable posters and palm cards that can be displayed near public computers for individuals and families looking to locate resources.

HUD Selects Thirty Public Housing Agencies to Join the Expansion of the Moving to Work (MTW) Demonstration Program

Last week, HUD announced the first thirty public housing agencies to join a small group of innovative agencies as part of the Moving to Work (MTW) demonstration program. Additionally, HUD is inviting agencies interested in participating in this unique demonstration to submit applications for the third and fourth cohorts of the MTW Expansion. The selectees for the second cohort will be announced later this spring.

“At HUD, we believe that individuals know how to best govern their own lives. We have seen that giving PHAs flexibility to care for their vulnerable populations has led to excellent

results for low-income families,” said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. “The MTW Expansion allows PHAs to tailor services to fit their communities’ unique needs, improving upon the outdated ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to affordable housing. At the same time, HUD will evaluate specific policy changes so we can apply “what works” to other agencies and benefit families across the nation.”

Through the thirty agencies selected in this initial cohort, HUD will evaluate the overall impact of MTW flexibilities on PHAs with less than 1,000 units. Selected PHAs represent communities from across the nation, including: Auburn, Alabama; Fayetteville, Arizona; Pocatello, Idaho; Ruston, Louisiana; Ripley, Missouri; Neptune, New Jersey; Rosenberg, Texas. In their own words, selected PHAs will use MTW designation in order to: offer encouragement in the form of incentives to help families work toward self-sufficiency and homeownership; establish emergency or transitional services to the homeless or otherwise hard to house; leverage financial flexibility to adequately fund all programs; develop creative partnerships with public and private collaborators; address mental health impediments of assisted residents; remove barriers that discourage income increases; achieve the highest level of internal operating efficiency; and much more. For a full list of the selectees in this initial cohort, please visit www.hud.gov/mtw.

Through the PHAs that will be selected in the third and fourth cohorts of the MTW Expansion through the notices that were published this week, HUD will learn whether work requirements promote self-sufficiency or how incentives could encourage landlords to participate in HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher program.

The third cohort of the MTW Expansion will test the impact of implementing a work requirement policy on both the agency and the residents it serves. PHAs may choose to implement a work requirement policy in the public housing and/or voucher programs. In the third cohort, HUD seeks to balance the goal of allowing applicant PHAs maximum flexibility to design a work requirement policy while still ensuring that the policies across the PHAs are similar enough to support rigorous evaluation.

The fourth cohort of the MTW Expansion will evaluate landlord incentives and their effect on landlord participation in the HCV program. PHAs in the fourth cohort of the MTW Expansion must implement at least two MTW landlord incentive activities from a provided list. HUD will select PHAs for the fourth cohort of the MTW Expansion using a lottery, thereby establishing two groups: a “treatment group” of PHAs that join the fourth cohort of the MTW Expansion and a “control group” of PHAs that do not join the fourth cohort of the MTW Expansion. An independent research team will compare outcomes for the two groups of PHAs.

Currently, there are 39 MTW PHAs throughout the nation. In 2015, Congress allowed HUD to expand the MTW demonstration program to 100 additional PHAs over a seven-year period.

The 100 new MTW PHAs will be added in several cohorts. Each cohort will experiment with a certain affordable housing policy, and HUD will study that specific policy change to learn what successful MTW innovations should be applied to all PHAs across the nation. The MTW Research Advisory Committee recommended the following policy changes that HUD will evaluate: MTW flexibilities, rent reform, work requirements, and landlord incentives.

Interested agencies should think about the types of policies they would like to implement as part of the MTW demonstration program. Examples of policies that have been implemented by agencies can be found on the MTW website.

More information on how to apply can be found on HUD's website at www.hud.gov/mtw or [PIH Notice 2021-02](#) and [PIH Notice 2021-03](#), or you may contact the MTW office at: MTW-info@hud.gov.

HUD Announces the Availability New Funding for the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative

The Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Competitive Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), which published today, announces the availability of \$20 million for new incremental voucher assistance to assist former foster youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

The [FYI initiative](#), first launched on July 26, 2019, invests in local, cross-system collaborative efforts to prevent and end homelessness among youth with a current or prior history of child welfare involvement. Through FYI, public housing agencies (PHAs) that partner with their local public child welfare agency (PCWA) are able to access housing choice vouchers (HCVs) for eligible youth. To set these young adults on a path to self-sufficiency, the community is required to leverage supportive services that will be offered to the youth. Through FYI, youth are provided up to 36 months of rental assistance.

To date, HUD has awarded nearly \$9 million for FYI vouchers in 34 states. Through the announcement of the FYI Competitive NOFA, communities will now have two opportunities to access voucher assistance on behalf of foster youth. While HUD continues to make FYI vouchers available under [Notice PIH 2020-28](#), the Department encourages communities whose need exceeds that available under the notice to also pursue additional vouchers under the FYI Competitive NOFA.

The NOFA, which provides information regarding the application process, funding criteria and eligibility requirements, can be found at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331006>.

Questions regarding specific program requirements should be directed to FYI@hud.gov.

Publication of the NSPIRE Proposed Rule

On January 13, 2021, the proposed rule for the National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) was published in the Federal Register. This publication represents a significant milestone for NSPIRE and will establish the regulatory framework necessary for its implementation when final. Through the proposed rule, HUD seeks to:

1. Use a singular set of physical inspection standards to align all of the HUD programs;
2. Reduce administrative burden on small rural PHAs by incorporating provisions of the Economic Growth and Recovery, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act;
3. Establish methods for the implementation of specific NSPIRE standards, scoring, and processes;
4. Create a unified assessment of housing quality and apply a "safe, habitable dwellings" standard;
5. For certain HUD housing, implement a new annual self-inspection and reporting requirement; and

6. Establish an administrative process for the treatment of health and safety deficiencies.

HUD seeks public comment on all aspects of the proposed rule, which will be considered as the rule progresses from a proposed rule to a final rule within the established rulemaking process. To be considered, comments should be submitted in accordance with guidance published in the *Federal Register* notice.

See the proposed rule as published in the *Federal Register* at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/13/2021-00098/economic-growth-regulatory-relief-and-consumer-protection-act-implementation-of-national-standards>.