



MOVING ON PROGRAM PROFILE: CHICAGO, IL

Background/Program Description

The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) launched their Moving On Pilot (MOP) in 2012. MOP targets persons living in permanent supportive housing (PSH) who are ready to move into affordable housing options in the community. Tenants with stable housing histories and who no longer need the intensive support of PSH will be able to access new affordable housing resources in the form of a CHA Housing Choice Voucher (HCV). CSH serves as the pilot intermediary and facilitator. The pilot started with ten vouchers to be distributed between three SH agencies: Thresholds, Renaissance Social Services Inc. and Mercy Housing Lakefront. In subsequent years, the program grew to include the availability of 140 additional vouchers.

CHA's HCV program encourages tenants to consider moving into "Opportunity Areas", areas of the City with lower concentrations of poverty and access to community infrastructure (e.g. quality schools, public transportation). If MOP applicants wanted to move into an Opportunity Area, they had access to housing location support from CHA's Housing Mobility Counseling Program. The Mobility Counseling contractor delivered services to tenants, including housing location, assisting landlords with the HCV paperwork and a \$500 grant for the tenant. The grant was typically utilized as a security deposit for the new unit.

CSH developed a number of trainings and tools to assist in program implementation including a policy and procedure manual, project workflow, MOU between pilot partners, tenant roles and responsibilities form, HCV referral form, tenant recruitment flyer, pilot evaluation survey and provider training curriculum. CSH also worked with CHA and a committee of supportive housing providers to develop a comprehensive assessment tool to determine if households no longer need the support of services teams and could maintain housing with a Housing Choice Voucher alone.

Identification and Assessment Process

Supportive Housing agencies identified applicants for the pilot program. In many cases, tenants had self-identified their desire to move from the project and were eager to have the opportunity to apply for the program. All tenants identified for the program were required to complete a MOP assessment. If the tenant scored sufficiently within the assessment categories, the case manager completed additional forms and sent the completed packet to CSH. CSH reviewed the packet for accuracy and sent it on to CHA. CHA verified eligibility and accepted the tenant into the pilot. Applicants then went through the standard HCV lease up process – attending an HCV briefing, identifying a unit, and ensuring the unit passed inspection. CSH hosts monthly conference calls to discuss the progress and updates for each tenant enrolled in the program, troubleshooting any areas where tenants have stalled in the process.

Initiative Partners

Chicago Housing Authority

CSH

Supportive Housing Providers (Thresholds, Deborah's Place, Renaissance Social Services Inc., Mercy Housing, Heartland Alliance, Alexian Brothers, Christian Community Health Center)

Housing Choice Partners (CHA's Mobility Counseling Program Partner)

Funding Sources

Housing Choice Vouchers are utilized as the housing subsidy. CHA held a contract with CSH to manage the pilot process. PSH providers did not receive compensation for their participation – but maintained an incentive to participate through their supportive services contracts with the IL Department of Human Services. Each quarter SH agencies report on the number of services delivered, and with tenants who no longer need services, agencies wanted to be able to provide those services and meet their funding objectives. From both a fiscal and agency mission standpoint, MOP helped agencies meet their reporting needs. As stated above, tenants were eligible to receive a \$500 grant from the Mobility Counseling Program if they moved into Opportunity Areas.

Housing Resources

MOP utilized Housing Choice Vouchers as the housing subsidy. Tenants are charged with finding units on their own, however supportive housing agencies supported tenants in their search as capacity allowed. At the HCV briefing, tenants receive information about available units and landlords via CHA's website.

Services

SH providers assisted applicants, as capacity allowed, in the recruitment and application phase. One agency, a Medicaid-biller, was able to continue to provide community based supports as needed to participants. The other agencies did not provide additional supports post-move but conducted follow-up calls at the 6, 12 and 18 month transition point. Providers completed follow-up surveys via Survey Monkey and CSH compiled and analyzed the results.

Backfill Policy

As supportive housing units are vacated through the Moving on Program, housing providers coordinate with the Central Referral System (Chicago's PSH coordinated access system) to backfill these units. Individuals are prioritized for supportive housing based on the Vulnerability Index score and length of homelessness.

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