



**PHA Profile:
San Francisco Housing Authority
Families Moving Forward**

Basic PHA Stats

Location: San Francisco, California
 Housing Choice Vouchers: 8,707
 Public Housing Apartments: 6,142

Program Description

Families Moving Forward (FMF) is a program that offers housing assistance, intensive case management, and extensive services to families that come into the child welfare system who are experiencing homelessness and are at high risk of having children removed. The five-year program is funded by a \$4 million federal grant and will be evaluated to see if it can become a national model. The program aims to interrupt downward spirals for some of the highest-need families in the San Francisco child welfare system. A review of outcomes for children who were homeless and investigated for maltreatment by the San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA) between 2008 and 2012 shows that over half of these children go on to foster care placement, compared to 13% of non-homeless children. Additional risk factors such as domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse or criminal history, increase the likelihood of placement to about 80%. Families Moving Forward gives social workers additional tools like housing and intensive services to support these families as they try to better protect and care for their children and prevent the need for foster care placement. FMF is working with the San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA) to house families with Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers. In addition, the Homeless Prenatal Program has partnered to provide the supportive services and to do the housing search, stabilization and retention.

Motivation

This work was initiated by a national demonstration program, [Keeping Families Together](#) and driven by the HSA by way of their partnership with the Homeless Prenatal Program.

Resources Required

This program did not require MTW status. San Francisco Housing Authority did not hire staff to specifically manage the FUP or FMF programs. SFHA dedicated one staff person to the program, and all program participants were moved to that person’s caseload, rather than dividing families up between multiple staff members.

Challenges

The most challenging piece from the perspective of the housing authority was educating all the stakeholders of each other’s responsibilities, internal processes, rules, regulations and deliverables. Identifying all the appropriate people to have from each agency at the table also took some additional efforts especially when there was turnover in staff.

Rewards

Rewards of the program include the assurance that families served are receiving services from multiple partnerships and ultimately receiving services in a more comprehensive way than they have traditionally occurred. This gives all parties confidence that the families will have opportunities to succeed in their housing and in their lives.

Partners

Partner Name	Type of Organization/ Roll in Program
Human Services Agency (HSA)	The referring entity to the PHA
Homeless Prenatal Program	Partner with HSA

Documentation Changes Made

Document	Document Changes
Administration Plan	Modified some of the criminal background screening and WL language

Words of Wisdom from the Housing Authority

“Other PHA’s looking to implement this program will likely need to overcome challenges surrounding the education of stakeholders of the ins and outs of the HCV/FUP program. Developing resources to help explain the workflows and regulatory obligations that the PHA has will be helpful and ultimately establishing a list of the key players. I would say that a process mapping session should occur early on or prior to implementation so PHA’s and stakeholders can avoid figuring it out as they go.”

Contact Person for PHAs Interested in Implementing a Similar Program

Name	Title	Phone	Email
Sarah Ramler	Director of Leased Housing	415-715-3283	Ramlers@sfha.org