

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2021**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-04

WHEREAS, the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) intends to submit an application for the Mobility Demonstration through the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, there are funds allocated through the Mobility Demonstration to provide mobility services to families with children to encourage such families to move to lower-poverty areas, to expand their access to opportunity areas, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies pursued under the Mobility Demonstration; and

WHEREAS, if HANO is selected for the Mobility Demonstration, then the Agency must offer and provide a set of agreed upon services and adopt certain administrative policies which include committing to adopting high enough payment standards in opportunity areas to ensure families have access to rental units in those areas and adopting a preference for families with at least one child aged 13 and under that live in census tracts with a family poverty rate of thirty percent or higher; and

WHEREAS, if HANO is selected for the Mobility Demonstration, then the Agency also must agree to participate in the research evaluation portion of the program which include recruiting and enrolling families to participate in the demonstration, randomly assigning families to control and treatment groups, and providing informed consent to families; and

WHEREAS, is HANO is selected for the Mobility Demonstration, then the Agency also must agree to meet the reporting requirements of the program which include including submitting performance and financial reports, submitting one-hundred percent of data in HUD's Public and Indian Housing Information (PIC) system, submitting required Voucher Management System (VMS) reports, reporting the use of any non-HUD funds contributed to the demonstration, submitting at least annual reports on achievement of outcomes, and reporting race, ethnicity, and various other data; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Executive Director, Evette Hester to take all steps necessary submit an applicate to HUD for the HCV Mobility Demonstration and be it further resolved that the Board of Commissioners supports HANO's interest in participating in the Mobility Demonstration and HANO's willingness to comply with all applicable requirements of the program including but not limited to the research evaluation reporting requirements.

Executed this 1st day of February, 2021.

APPROVAL:



**DEBRA JOSEPH
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



February 1, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Commissioners

**President Debra Joseph, Vice President Isabel Barrios,
Commissioner Avery Foret, Commissioner Sharon Jasper,
Commissioner Carol Johnson, Commissioner Monika McKay,
Commissioner Hyma Moore, Commissioner Kim Piper and
Commissioner Bill Rouselle**

**Through: Evette Hester
Executive Director**

**From: April Kennedy
Director, Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP)**

RE: Submission of a Proposal under the HCV Mobility Demonstration

On July 15, 2020, the United States Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) released FR-6191-N-01, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers: Implementation of the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration. The primary purposes of the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration (Demonstration) are to provide voucher assistance and mobility-related services to families with children to encourage such families to move to lower-poverty areas, to expand their access to opportunity areas, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies pursued under the Demonstration.

Housing mobility programs help low-income families with children use Housing Choice Vouchers to move to high-opportunity neighborhoods. These neighborhoods often have less poverty, better schools, less crime, and more resources such as grocery stores and parks, which together promote better health and life satisfaction for parents and children and improve children's chances of succeeding in school and earning more as adults. Evidence suggests many low-income families would like to move to high-opportunity communities, but barriers — including high housing costs, discrimination, and a shortage of willing landlords — often prevent them from doing so.

The Demonstration is effective beginning October 1, 2022 until October 1, 2028. After October 1, 2028, vouchers will no longer be restricted to the purposes under which they were made available for the Demonstration and will become part of a the regular HCV Program of the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), thus increasing HANO's voucher program.

HANO has based its submission proposal on best practices and models around the nation of partnerships with external fair housing and housing advocates to implement mobility strategies. HANO is proposing to partner with the Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center (LaFHAC) as the main implementation arm. In partnering with LaFHAC, HANO noted that fair housing centers

have already been at the forefront of helping HCV clients move to higher opportunity neighborhoods, and that PHAs typically have not been able to achieve this as a part of its normal business operations.

LaFHAC is well known in the rental community as an advocate that is knowledgeable about New Orleans neighborhoods including challenges with residing in certain neighborhoods. They are also very knowledgeable about the HCV program as they have partnered with HANO to build the capacity of HCV tenants and landlords.

Proposals for the Demonstration are due on February 1, 2021. A board resolution indicating HANO's interest in participating in the Demonstration, and indicating HANO's willingness to comply with all applicable requirements and the evaluation and the reporting requirements is a prerequisite for the submission of an application to the Demonstration.

HANO requests that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Executive Director, Evette Hester to take all steps necessary submit an applicate to HUD for the HCV Mobility Demonstration and that the Board of Commissioners support the request to submit a HCV Mobility Demonstration proposal with partners LaFHAC that will request 4 million in implementation funds and 195,000 in start-up costs to assist HANO clients in moving to low poverty areas over a six year period.