

HOUSING MOBILITY PROGRAMS IN THE U.S.

41%

Of the 5.3 million benefitting from HCVs are **children**.

31%

Increase in annual income for **children under 13 years old** who move to less poor neighborhoods. The increase is about \$3,500.

Neighborhood Matters

Neighborhoods with more social capital and civic engagement, stronger family structures, less racial and economic segregation, less income inequality and higher quality schools tend to produce better outcomes.

The Story of Housing Mobility Programs

Federal housing programs and agencies were developed in the 1930s to alleviate housing hardships caused by the **Great Depression**. In 1937, the **U.S. Housing Act** sought to address the housing needs of low income people. Despite this, public housing provided separate and unequal opportunities for white and non-white residents. This left African Americans **confined to poor, racially isolated neighborhoods**, while white residents lived in nicer units in wealthier parts of town. Starting in the 1960s and 1970s, in conjunction with the Civil Rights Movement, black residents across the country began suing the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** to end the segregation. **Housing mobility programs** arose from those cases to provide choice, access and opportunity for affected families. Housing mobility programs remain today with new programs emerging to address persistent housing segregation and poverty across the country. In 2017, Congress appropriated slightly more than **\$20 billion** for the **Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV)**. Yet, only **23%** of those in need receive a voucher or other rental assistance.

The Impact



Fights Homelessness

Reduces homelessness and instability.



Strengthens Families

Children in homeless families **change schools less often** and are **42% less likely to be placed in foster care**. Their families are also **less likely to be food insecure** and **34% less likely to experience domestic violence**.



Supports Working Families

69% of non-disabled, working age American voucher holders had at least one member who was working in 2016 or had worked recently.



Strengthens Communities

69% of non-disabled, working age American voucher holders had at least one member who was working in 2016 or had worked recently.



Expands Opportunities for Children

Vouchers enable children to grow up in healthier neighborhoods. As a result, children are **more likely to attend college, less likely to become single parents and earn more as adults**.

WHAT WE KNOW: Housing mobility programs with a **counseling component** have shown to be the most impactful for positive long-term outcomes. Counseling focused on life skills like goal-setting, banking and budgeting, landlord-tenant relations, home maintenance, credit education and more, has resulted in many successful mobility programs, including:

Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership (BRHP)— BRHP has provided vouchers along with **pre- and post-move counseling** to **over 4,000 families** to rent private homes in Opportunity Areas in Baltimore City and surrounding counties. BRHP offers generous housing search time, payment standards that are competitive with fair market rents, and performs targeted outreach to landlords throughout the Baltimore region.

Chicago's Housing Choice Partners (HCP)— HCP has helped close to **7,000 families** with renting in areas of higher opportunity. HCP is also involved in fair housing advocacy and has counseling, support and consulting services.

Dallas' Inclusive Communities Project (ICP)— Since the start of their Mobility Assistance Program in 2005, ICP has helped **thousands of families** move to safer, well-resourced, higher opportunity areas. Annually, ICP helps **350 families on average** with move-related financial assistance.