



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Carla Pisarro

212-784-5715

cpisarro@groupgordon.com

New York State Housing Mobility Pilot Program Reports Meaningful and Positive Changes for the Lives of Participating Families

Report finds that families participating in New York State Housing Mobility Pilot program saw improvements in health, educational outcomes, and more

October 18, 2022 – [Enterprise Community Partners](#) today released a [new report](#) in collaboration with [Mobility Works](#) and [Poverty & Race Research Action Council](#) (PRRAC) assessing the outcomes of the New York State Housing Mobility Pilot program, which Enterprise committed funds to launch in partnership with the New York State Office of the Attorney General. Started in 2020, the program helped families participating in the federal [Housing Choice Voucher \(HCV\) program](#) move to higher-opportunity neighborhoods. The program assisted families in three regions across New York State: Buffalo, Long Island, and New York City. In total, 54 households, including over 80 children, moved with the assistance of this program. The participating households are now living in neighborhoods with poverty rates that are 50-60% lower on average compared to their prior neighborhoods.

The pilot program results showed that housing mobility programs help change the trajectory of low-income families' lives for the better, with participating households reporting significant improvements in several major facets of their lives, including but not limited to:

- Physical and mental health
- Educational outcomes for their children
- Sense of security and safety
- Stress levels and sleep quality

Through the federal Housing Choice Voucher program, known as Section 8, low-income households receive a voucher to rent homes and apartments from private landlords in neighborhoods of their choice. However, when trying to rent apartments in lower-poverty neighborhoods, many voucher holders face hurdles, including housing costs and discrimination from landlords or housing providers. To help families with vouchers successfully move, if they chose to, this mobility pilot program provided one-on-one mobility counseling, financial supports to help address barriers in higher-cost housing communities, and landlord outreach. After settling in their new neighborhoods, participating families received ongoing support including check-ins from program staff, referrals to local service agencies, and assistance with property, management, or landlord issues.

Among the participants, there was nearly uniform agreement that their new neighborhoods and homes were an improvement from their last residence. The report includes testimonial anecdotes from participants on how the move affected them and their family's lives; for example, one participant shared, "I am less overwhelmed, anxious, depressed. Happy, more open-minded, and positive. My sons are happier and appreciate the larger space."

"We know from practical experience and research that where families live and their ability to choose their neighborhood matters," said **Baaba Halm, vice president and New York market leader for Enterprise Community Partners**. "Not only should all families have the opportunity to choose where they call home, but we must ensure that families receive sufficient resources to assist and guide them through these moves. We are excited by the findings in this report and enthusiastic about how these findings can guide future housing mobility programs."

"When families are able to choose where they live, they are given the freedom to thrive," said **Attorney General Letitia James**. "In the two years since its launch, the New York State Housing Mobility Pilot Program has delivered improved outcomes and benefits for New York families. I am proud that the funds my office has secured from settlements with banks are being used to confront New York's housing crisis, and I am grateful to Enterprise Community Partners, Mobility Works, and the Poverty and Race Research Action Council for their work in making this program a success."

"New Yorkers deserve to have a choice in where they want to live, and this report shows us just how meaningful it can be to provide families with more options when it comes to their housing search," said **NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development Commissioner Adolfo Carrión Jr.** "We're committed to empowering families who want to find housing in higher-cost neighborhoods by providing mobility counseling, financial support, and landlord outreach. Thanks to Enterprise Community Partners for their research and partnership!"

"We have been honored to partner with Enterprise on this project, and impressed by their commitment to fair housing choice," said **Philip Tegeler, Executive Director at PRRAC**. "It has also been great to see the state of New York supporting housing mobility programs – joining several other states in the Northeast that have made a similar commitment."

RuthAnne Visnauskas, Commissioner of New York State Homes and Community Renewal, said, "Everyone, regardless of income, deserves the opportunity to live and raise their children in safe, vibrant communities with good schools and access to resources like grocery stores, parks, and playgrounds. As this report illustrates, housing mobility programs that provide counseling and support to help families move from high-poverty areas to high-opportunity communities change lives for the better—improving health, well-being, and overall success. Thanks to this program, 54 households with over 80 children in New York City, Long Island, and Buffalo successfully moved to lower-poverty neighborhoods. We will apply the lessons learned from this initiative and from our mobility program in Westchester County to expand to other regions around the State."

"CDCLI appreciates Enterprise Community Partners and Mobility Works support to bring the first-ever housing mobility program to Long Island," said **Gwen O'Shea, President and CEO of Community Development Corporation of Long Island (CDCLI)**. "We are committed to transforming lives through upward mobility, promoting equity, and connecting families with housing that will expand their opportunities and improve the lives of their children."

“Buffalo is the third most impoverished big city in America and ranked the 6th most segregated metropolitan area. A comprehensive mobility program has been needed in this area for a long time,” said **Adrienne Kosis, Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) Making Moves Program Manager**. “Many Housing Choice Voucher holders have barriers to moving outside of Buffalo or to parts of the city with lower crime rates. This program is working to eliminate those barriers by paying security deposits, application fees, providing education on the Fair Housing Laws to both the participants and landlords, and attempting to destigmatize HCV tenants by talking to landlords regarding the benefits of renting to a voucher holder. Our clients are very grateful to the Buffalo Making Moves Team for both their financial and emotional support.”

“The Long Island Board of REALTORS® [LIBOR] applauds the NYS Mobility Pilot Program for its success in not only getting families into housing but housing in higher opportunity neighborhoods to aid in better future outcomes,” said **LIBOR CEO Tessa Hultz**.

The mobility program reflects Enterprise’s “both/and” approach to housing, giving families the opportunity to move to lower-poverty and higher-opportunity neighborhoods, while simultaneously investing in economic, civil, and social institutions and organizations to increase opportunities in all communities and combat the structural racism embedded in housing segregation.

###

About Enterprise Community Partners

Enterprise is a national nonprofit that exists to make a good home possible for the millions of families without one. We support community development organizations on the ground, aggregate and invest capital for impact, advance housing policy at every level of government, and build and manage communities ourselves. Since 1982, we have invested \$54 billion and created 873,000 homes across all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico – all to make home and community places of pride, power and belonging. Join us at [enterprisecommunity.org](https://www.enterprisecommunity.org).