

Questions on Asset Building for the 10/28/21 Research Advisory Committee Meeting

At the meeting on 10/14, committee members voted on priority of several proposed topics for future MTW expansion cohorts. Asset building was the most popular topic.

What we need from you this time around is guidance on three questions related to an expansion cohort focused on asset building:

- (1) What intervention should we study?
- (2) How does the intervention use MTW?
- (3) How could the intervention be evaluated?

Starting with questions 1 and 2, more specific questions to be addressed include the following:

- What should be the goal of an asset building program for very low-income families run by housing authorities?
- What kind of asset building program(s) does it make the most sense for a housing authority to implement?
- What key components should be included?
- What MTW authorities are required to implement the proposed interventions?

Turning to question 3, how could the intervention be evaluated?

- What kind of research designs should be considered? Including considerations such as:
 - Do we know enough about asset building for very low-income families to design a meaningful RCT?
 - How would we identify a counterfactual for the intervention?
 - How many years out should we plan to follow study participants?
 - What context factors would we need to take into account when studying the impacts of implementing an asset building program?
- How could we measure impacts of proposed asset building programs?
- How could MTW agencies promote asset building in the absence of additional funding from HUD and how could HUD make an asset building cohort attractive to PHAs?