

Providing Support Services

September 2020

A key component of the Department's mission is to utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life. One of the ways public housing agencies (PHA) can help the Department accomplish this mission is by helping families be more self-sufficient. This can be challenging for PHAs because their biggest responsibility is administering federally funded housing programs. Focusing on responsibilities like managing properties, complying occupancy requirements, and acting as landlords can make it difficult for PHAs address social service needs.

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) and Job Initiative Plus (Jobs Plus) are two Departmental programs created to help families become independent. Jobs Plus and FSS are grant programs that help PHAs provide social services like job training, education, and financial literacy to eligible families. PHAs must compete to be awarded funds for these programs which means that not all PHAs can implement FSS and Job Plus programs. Funding and regulatory flexibilities authorize Moving to Work (MTW) PHAs to provide specialized services to eligible families without being awarded a grant. MTW PHAS can do this by implementing a local, non-traditional (LNT) activity.

LNT activities are those which use MTW funding flexibility for activities outside of Sections 8 and 9 of the U.S Housing Act of 1937 (Act). There are three LNT categories, rental subsidy programs, housing development programs and service provision. An LNT service provision is the provision of HUD-approved self-sufficiency or supportive services not permitted by the Act. MTW PHAs can use this flexibility to provide services to eligible individuals who do not participate in the voucher or public housing programs.

LNT service provision activities can provide supportive services subsidies to a third-party organization to assist low-income participants. MTW PHAs can make these organizations responsible for determining eligibility allowing them to serve more members of the community without increasing administrative burdens.

Authorizations

MTW Agencies Operating under the MTW Operations Notice:

17.b – LNT, Service Provision

Legacy Agencies:

MTW Agreement and Notice PIH 2011-45