

Overview of Regions Represented at the Jan. 21-22 Regional Housing Mobility Programs Practitioner Convening

This document provides a broad overview of the seven regions represented at the convening. It includes information about the scope of the region, the number of PHAs in the region and the number of HCVs they administer, existing housing mobility programs underway within individual PHAs and regional cooperation on portability or mobility.

The information in this document comes from a variety of sources, including:

- responses to a questionnaire that Econometrica and BRick Partners fielded to seven individuals (one from each of the seven regions),
- follow-up discussions with these individuals,
- HUD data on HCV program size,
- OMB definitions of metropolitan areas and divisions,
- information on the scope of the planning areas of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs),
- Census information on population (in some cases, via Wikipedia),
- information from PHA websites,
- Project profiles prepared by BRick Partners and Econometrica for this convening, and
- a publication on *Housing Mobility Programs in the U.S.*¹

Regions may be defined in many different ways. Where a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is actively involved in facilitating regional mobility, we have focused on the planning area of the MPO. In other cases, we have relied on definitions used to define the Metropolitan Statistical Area or the Metropolitan Division in which the central city is located. To the extent practitioners define their region differently, we will happily defer to local definitions.²

The data on the number of housing authorities and number of HCVs they administer come primarily from an extract of PIC data that HUD PD&R prepared. In some cases, however, these figures have been supplemented with information provided by the questionnaire respondents, by the PIC Resident Characteristics Report, and by information available on PHA websites.

Since we were not able to talk with all of the more than 50 PHAs represented in these regions, it is inevitable there will be some omissions for which we apologize in advance. We look forward to learning about additional activities within the regions during the convening.

¹ Prepared for the Sixth National Conference on Housing Mobility, Chicago, June 2015, by Audrey Berdahl-Baldwin (conference co-sponsored by PRRAC, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and the Metropolitan Planning Council).

² Since the regions are defined somewhat differently from region to region and the population data come from several different sources, the population data are not strictly comparable across sites.

Region	Baltimore, MD	Chicago, IL
Scope of Region	The Baltimore Metropolitan Council focuses on six counties in Maryland with about 2.7 million residents: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Baltimore City, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties. (This is entire MSA except for Queen Anne's County.) The largest cities are Baltimore, Columbia, and Towson.	The Chicago Metropolitan Area for Planning is responsible for comprehensive metropolitan planning in seven counties in northeastern Illinois: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will. The region has about 8.5 million residents. The largest cities are: Chicago, Aurora, Elgin, Joliet, and Naperville.
# of PHAs & HCVs	Nine PHAs administer about 26,000 HCVs. Largest HCV programs: Baltimore City (MTW) (12,700), Baltimore County (5,600), and Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership (3,100).	15 PHAs administer about 59,000 HCVs. Largest HCV programs: Chicago (MTW) (34,000), Cook County (13,000), Dupage (3,200) and Lake County (2,700).
Existing Mobility Programs	The Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership operates a regional mobility program (The Baltimore Housing Mobility Program) created through the <i>Thompson v. HUD</i> 1996 partial consent decree and expanded through a 2012 settlement agreement. Since 2002, the program has helped more than 2,800 families. Metropolitan Baltimore Quadel administered the program through 2014.	<p>The Chicago HA has a mobility program, operated by Housing Choice Partners (HCP) (since 2011) and previously by Quadel (1995-2010). Prior programs include: Gautreaux (ended in late 1990s) and a program that was part of the Plan for Transformation (2003-2010).</p> <p>The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) had a robust mobility program from 1995-2003. Since that time, they have, at various times, operated a small internal program. HACC is currently working to develop an expanded internal mobility program.</p> <p>The Joliet PHA has a mobility program through its relocation efforts as DesPlaines Gardens is torn down and public housing residents are given vouchers. Lake County just started its own mobility program.</p>
Regional Cooperation on Portability / Mobility	<p>On Dec. 10, 2015, HUD approved a request for administrative funding from the Baltimore Regional Project-Based Voucher program, which will seek to project-base HCVs in high-opportunity and revitalizing areas within the region. Seven PHAs have contributed a total of 100 vouchers to this effort.</p> <p>The Baltimore Housing Mobility Program also operates on a regional scale. Eligibility is focused on current and former residents of HABC public housing, families active on HABC waiting lists, and residents of certain parts of Baltimore City.</p>	Area PHAs are collaborating on a project-based mobility program and also piloted a regional tenant-based mobility program. Ten PHAs, now working with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and other partners, have contributed vouchers to a regional project-based voucher program, which has led to more than 600 PBVs in opportunity areas throughout the region, and another 300+ units of affordable and workforce housing leveraged in the same properties. Seven PHAs worked together with HCP, the Metropolitan Planning Council and other partners on a voucher mobility program from 2011-2014, which included a focus on portability and which compared the effects of counseling and financial incentive options with “incentives only.”
Other	The Baltimore region is unusual in having an entity – the Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership – operate a regional HCV program dedicated to opportunity moves.	

Region	Denver, CO	Philadelphia, PA
Scope of Region	<p>The central part of the Denver MSA consists of Denver and three adjacent counties: Jefferson, Adams, and Arapahoe. The urbanized area continues into the City and County of Broomfield and Douglas County. The MSA includes these counties plus four rural counties: Elbert, Clear Creek, Gilpin and Park. Boulder used to be part of the Denver MSA but now anchors its own MSA. There are about 2.3 million residents in the four-county central part of the Denver MSA and 2.8 million in the MSA overall. About 313,000 people live in Boulder County.</p>	<p>The Philadelphia, PA Metropolitan Division consists of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties and has about 4 million residents. The broader region – sometimes known as Greater Philadelphia –covers 11 counties in three states and has about 6.4 million residents. The region consists of: New Castle County in Delaware; Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Mercer, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; and Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania. The largest cities are Philadelphia, Camden, Trenton, and Wilmington.</p>
# of PHAs & HCVs	<p>Ten PHAs in the central part of the Denver MSA administer about 13,000 HCVs. Largest HCV programs: Denver (5,700), Aurora (1,800), Adams County (1,360), and Metro West (1,200). In addition, the state HCV program administers nearly 3,000 HCVs in the MSA. Boulder Housing Partners (MTW) has about 750 HCVs.</p>	<p>Four PHAs in the Philadelphia, PA Metropolitan Division administer about 25,000 HCVs. Largest HCV programs: Philadelphia (MTW) (18,000), Delaware County (3,100), Montgomery County (2,100), and Chester (1,400).</p>
Existing Mobility Programs	<p>No specific programs highlighted in questionnaire</p>	<p>Philadelphia has a voucher mobility program. It has been in operation for two years.</p>
Regional Cooperation on Portability / Mobility	<p>The questionnaire indicates there is collaboration within the region but does not indicate any specific formal regional partnerships.</p>	<p>Efforts were made a few years ago to develop a regional mobility program in the Philadelphia region. It led to a collaboration between the Philadelphia and Chester County Housing Authorities that has since lapsed.</p>
Other	<p>The Denver Housing Authority is part of a regional effort to create transit-oriented development near planned transit stations as part of the regional expansion of light rail.</p>	

Region	Rockford, IL	St. Louis, MO
Scope of Region	The Rockford MSA consists of four counties in North Central, Illinois – Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago – with a population of about 350,000. The nearby Jo Daviess County (about 22,000 residents) may also be considered part of the region.	The St. Louis MO-IL MSA includes the City of St. Louis and adjoining counties in Missouri and Illinois, with a total population of about 2.8 million. Conversations with HUD field office staff made clear that the Missouri and Illinois sections of the region are quite distinct. The mobility partnership plans to focus initially on two jurisdictions: St. Louis City and St. Louis County, which together have a population of about 1.3 million.
# of PHAs & HCVs	The four PHAs in active collaboration on project-based vouchers administer 2,722 HCVs. Two additional PHAs in the region administer a total of 126 HCVs. Largest HCV programs: Rockford (1857) and Winnebago County (627).	The St. Louis City PHA has about 6,400 HCVs and the St. Louis County PHA has about 6,300 HCVs. There are 7 other housing authorities in the St. Louis MO-IL MSA that have another 6,300 HCVs.
Existing Mobility Programs	The PHAs of Rockford and Winnebago provide mobility counseling within their FSS programs. Rockford gained experience with mobility counseling through administering a relocation program agreed to in a lawsuit settlement in the 2000s.	The City and County are in the process of exploring establishing a voucher mobility program.
Regional Cooperation on Portability / Mobility	Through a series of intergovernmental agreements and informal relationships, four PHAs in the region (Rockford, Winnebago County, Boone County and Freeport) allow each other to operate HCVs in each other’s jurisdictions and are converting some vouchers to PBVs in opportunity areas (creating a portfolio of housing units that all accept referrals from several PHAs). These PHAs are also looking to RAD as a way to create more PBVs in opportunity areas.	No specific programs highlighted in questionnaire
Other	The Winnebago County HA administers the HCVs of the Boone County HA and the HA of the City of Freeport as well as its own HCVs. Winnebago also administers a state-funded project-based rental assistance program in four counties.	

Region	Twin Cities, MN
Scope of Region	The Metropolitan Council – the regional governmental agency and MPO for the Twin Cities – focuses on the seven counties of Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Anoka, Washington, Scott, and Carver. In this region, which holds nearly three million residents, the largest cities are Minneapolis and St. Paul.
# of PHAs & HCVs	11 PHAs administer about 20,000 HCVs. Largest HCV programs: Metro HRA (6,490), Minneapolis (MTW) (5,188), St. Paul (4,508), and Dakota (2,331)
Existing Mobility Programs	Minneapolis and Metro HRA both have voucher mobility programs; Metro HRA’s program is just getting started. In addition, Metro HRA owns 150 units of scattered site housing in suburban areas which it administers as part of the Family Affordable Housing Program (FAHP). The units were developed as part of a lawsuit consent decree to deconcentrate poverty. Families come from areas of concentrated poverty in Minneapolis.
Regional Cooperation on Portability / Mobility	The 11 PHAs in the region meet twice a year to discuss ways to collaborate. Recently, they started discussing the possibility of developing a common utility schedule to facilitate portability. While the agencies have a good working relationship to facilitate portability, there are no formal regional agreements on portability in place.
Other	The Twin Cities is somewhat unique in having a regional planning organization with its own HCV program. Metro HRA administers the HCV program for all of Anoka and Carver counties and suburban Hennepin and Ramsey counties, excluding the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Bloomington, Richfield, Plymouth and St. Louis Park.