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August 30, 2016

To: MTW Research Advisory Committee

From: Preston Prince, CEO 

Re: MTW expansion policy priorities

VIA E-Mail: MTWAdvisoryCommittee@hud.gov

I am writing as the Chair of NAHRO's Housing and Education Task Force hoping for the opportunity to provide comment on the MTW expansion policy priorities.

NAHRO's members own or manage more than 95 percent of all public housing in the United States. Public housing is home to more than 3.3 million children who are enrolled in public schools. NAHRO believes that schools need a 24/7/365 partner and understands that PHAs are uniquely positioned to fill this role. To that end, NAHRO has created a Task Force to help harness the tremendous energy and creativity that's emerging in the housing sector around the role of housing in closing chronic achievement gaps. NAHRO is working with its members to:

1. Encourage and expand PHA potential to become learning enablers by ensuring that young learners have access to all of the community's resources to support learning.
2. Expand partnerships between housing and education leaders and organizations.
3. Support the Bringing School Home national research demonstration initiative and other efforts to create and evidence basis for housing involvement.
4. Influence housing policy and programs in favor of improving school outcomes.

A recent NAHRO survey of its membership found more than 690 PHAs actively offering education programs. MTW agencies should lead a transformation of this often-potluck approach to housing and education programs into an

intentional, comprehensive and coordinated system in which housing plays a crucial role in the learning equation.

NAHRO understands and appreciates the gravity of the task you've taken on and I realize that you're weighing many important policy considerations. On behalf of the Task Force members, I'm asking that you give strong consideration to Education First. It has the potential to create far greater returns to our communities and society than we've seen and enjoyed in the Housing First program. Let's extend and expand that learning to children.

CC: Steve Merritt, President, NAHRO
John Bohm, Interim CEO, NAHRO
Housing and Education Task Force Members, NAHRO