



**Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority**  
100 West Cedar Street  
Akron, Ohio 44307  
(330) 762-9631  
[www.akronhousing.org](http://www.akronhousing.org)

September 22, 2020

Dear AMHA Participant,

I am writing to inform you that the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) is applying to participate in the second cohort of the Moving to Work (MTW) Program Expansion with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The second cohort is designed to evaluate different ways of calculating participants' rent portions. If AMHA is chosen, the MTW Program will allow us to design and test new housing and self-sufficiency strategies to better serve our community. Applications are due to HUD on January 8, 2021, with selections being made in 2021-2022.

On the back of this letter are answers to some of the questions you may have about the Moving to Work Program and how the MTW program will impact you.

Also, due to the ongoing pandemic and the limited ability to have in-person meetings, I invite you to participate in any or all of the virtual meetings listed below to hear more about the MTW Program and AMHA's plans. During the meeting, you will have the opportunity to provide comments and/or ask any questions that you have. The meetings will be held on Zoom. To access the meetings, please call 312-626-6799 and enter the meeting ID and passcode OR download the Zoom application on your smart phone and enter the meeting ID and passcode.

**Virtual AMHA Resident/Participant Meetings:**

1. Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.  
Meeting ID 929 2425 2041 and passcode 10152020
2. Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.  
Meeting ID 988 2896 6639 and passcode 10282020

**Virtual Public Hearing:**

3. Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID 996 1137 9157 and passcode 12012020

Please continue to check AMHA's website at [www.akronhousing.org](http://www.akronhousing.org) for additional opportunities to learn more about MTW. Persons with disabilities needing assistance, please contact the Reasonable Accommodations Coordinator at (330) 762-9631 as soon as possible, or for persons needing an interpreter, please contact Lindsay Mellor at (330) 376-9860 as soon as possible.

Alternatively, if you are unable or do not want to participate in the virtual meeting, you may also ask your questions or provide your comments by calling our MTW information line at (330) 825-6987 or email [MTW@AkronHousing.Org](mailto:MTW@AkronHousing.Org).

Sincerely,

Brian M. Gage, Executive Director

TURN OVER FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MOVING TO WORK PROGRAM



### **What are housing agencies permitted to do under MTW?**

Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) that are chosen to participate in MTW are allowed to structure their housing programs to better benefit their local community. These PHAs have flexibility in combining their funding across multiple housing programs and in how they deliver services to their participants. The MTW program has three objectives:

- Reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness;
- Encourage self-sufficiency through job training, education programs, or other activities that encourage economic self-sufficiency; and
- Increase housing choices for low-income families.

MTW agencies must still follow all other federal rules and regulations, including the Fair Housing Act, the Civil Rights Act, labor standards, environmental rules, procurement guidelines, demolition and disposition procedures and relocation regulations. PHAs must also develop hardship policies and safeguards for unforeseen circumstances to support households in the MTW program.

### **What kinds of activities have MTW Agencies implemented?**

MTW Agencies can only use MTW flexibility in pursuit of the three MTW objectives listed above. Some of the activities include streamlining HUD processes, redesigning HUD forms, inspection and rent reform, supportive services, developing mixed-income and tax credit properties, foreclosure prevention, mortgage assistance, and increasing the percentage of project-based vouchers.

### **If AMHA is selected, how will it affect my rent?**

All eligible households will be randomly assigned to either a control group, with rent continuing to be calculated the way it is now (approximately 30% of gross household income), or a treatment group, to which the new rent policy will apply. The new rent policy groups households by income into tiers. Within each tier, all households will pay the same rent portion. Income reexaminations will occur every three years rather than every year. If a household's income increases into a higher income tier, its rent will not change until the triennial income reexamination. Certain households, such as elderly and disabled households, will be excluded from participating in the new rent policy in accordance with HUD guidelines.

### **Will I have to move?**

No, you will not have to move from your current unit due to AMHA joining the MTW program.

### **How long will AMHA be an MTW agency?**

MTW agencies complete a twenty-year contract. Once the MTW PHAs are selected, it will take approximately six to twelve months to prepare for the transition to MTW. Then, there will be a one-year enrollment period for eligible households and new admissions to be randomly assigned to the control group or treatment group.

### **How can I learn more about MTW and AMHA's plans?**

You can attend any of the virtual meetings on the previous page and/or visit AMHA's website, [www.akronhousing.org](http://www.akronhousing.org), to learn more about MTW as the plan is being developed. AMHA's plan will be available to the public at least 30 days before the public hearing. You can also visit HUD's MTW website for additional information at: [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/ph/mtw](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/mtw).