

## **Moving to Work (MTW) Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Annual Plan - Brief Summary**

Since 2008, Santa Clara County Housing Authority (SCCHA) has introduced nationally recognized changes to its affordable housing programs through the Moving to Work (MTW) demonstration program. MTW is a federal initiative established by Congress that encourages selected housing authorities to propose and implement, upon the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approval, locally-designed changes to the way affordable housing programs are administered.

The goals of the MTW program are:

- To increase cost effectiveness in housing program operations;
- To promote participants' economic self-sufficiency; and
- To expand participants' housing choices.

SCCHA has prepared its draft annual MTW plan to describe how the Agency plans to implement its MTW demonstration program for Fiscal Year 2023, from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. In the plan, SCCHA seeks approval from HUD to add the following activities:

### **Proposed Activity 2023-01: Delay Non-Income Verification After New Admission**

HUD regulations require PHAs to verify applicants' social security number, eligible immigration status (if applicable), and date of birth to determine program eligibility and rent calculation prior to admission to the program. Activity 2023-01 would allow families to self-declare their social security number (SSN), eligible immigration status, and date of birth (DoB) if they are unable to provide verification at the time of initial eligibility determination. During COVID, Social Security and California Department of Motor Vehicles offices have had closures and reduced staffing, which has delayed applicants who may have lost their personal identification information from providing the HUD-required documents necessary to verify their SSN, DoB, and immigration status. With this waiver, families would be required to provide verification documentation no later than 180 days past admission to the program. Removing the need for providing the necessary documents for verification prior to admission to the program will allow SCCHA to more quickly house applicants who may not have verification of their Social Security number, date of birth and legal immigration status, such as the homeless. Currently families have 15 days to provide necessary verification documentation prior to admission to the program. Families that are unable to provide the verification documentation are withdrawn from the waiting list without a voucher. (MTW Statutory Objective: Increase Housing Choices)

### **Proposed Activity 2023-02: Strive Scholarship**

Since 2015, each summer SCCHA has awarded the Strive Scholarship to Section 8 participants, public housing residents, and residents of SCCHA-owned affordable housing who will be attending a university, community college, or technical institution in the fall. The Strive Scholarship funds were allocated out of MTW funds and authorized by prior activities 2014-1 and 2014-1a, which are broader activities relating to the Focus Forward Program. Activity 2023-02 would separate out the Strive Scholarship as a stand-alone activity. This will allow SCCHA to continue to recognize and reward our clients for furthering their education, in the event that the Focus Forward activities are closed out. (MTW Statutory Objective: Improve Economic Self-Sufficiency)

### **Public Hearing**

SCCHA will hold a public hearing on the proposed MTW Plan via Zoom on **Friday, March 11, 2022 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. You must register to attend this public hearing.** For Registration information please visit:

[https://scchousingauthority-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jWvSZ087S5aIT6Hr6T3c4g](https://scchousingauthority-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jWvSZ087S5aIT6Hr6T3c4g)

A preliminary draft of the MTW Plan will be available for review at <https://www.scchousingauthority.org/about-sccha/moving-to-work> and public comments on the plan will be accepted from February 21, 2022 – March 23, 2022.

Comments may be submitted electronically to: [heather.miller@scchousingauthority.org](mailto:heather.miller@scchousingauthority.org) or by U.S. mail to the attention of Heather Miller, Senior Housing Policy Analyst, 505 West Julian Street San Jose, CA 95110.

The final proposed FY2023 MTW Annual Plan will be presented to the SCCHA Board of Commissioners for approval on April 7, 2023 and will be submitted to HUD for final approval no later than April 15, 2022.

In accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Housing Authority will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. Please call (408) 275-8770 at least three days in advance of the public hearing if you require special accommodations. TDD/TTY users call 408-993-3041.