



## PHA GUIDE TO CREATING CAPACITY IN PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO MOVE UP

### Background

When people have the opportunity to move from permanent supportive housing into another stable housing opportunity, such turnover creates availability in existing PSH that can be used to serve persons experiencing chronic homelessness. These approaches, when done in a purposeful way, are referred to as “moving up” or “moving on” initiatives.

[Permanent supportive housing \(PSH\)](#) is long-term, community-based housing combined with supportive services, for homeless persons with disabilities. Because it is permanent housing, there are no time limits on length-of-stay.

Many participants, over time, may find that they no longer need the level of supportive services that are provided while in PSH. They continue to need the housing assistance, however, so they remain in permanent supportive housing.

PHAs can choose to partner with CoCs and local homeless service providers to make tenant-based Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV, or Section 8) available through the use of preferences for people who have achieved stability in PSH and no longer require the same level of supportive services. In turn, this creates increased turnover in limited PSH, which will allow them to permanently house other eligible households, like the chronically homeless.

One of the strategies in *Opening Doors* is to create greater incentives for individuals and families to move on from PSH as they are ready, but the lack of affordable housing stock in many communities creates barriers to making this a reality. PHAs can play an important role in allowing individuals and families to move on from PSH and into affordable housing if and when they no longer need the intensive services provided in a PSH program,

particularly for households with incomes that are too low to pay for housing within the local community without ongoing rental assistance.

Because existing PSH has not always been targeted to the most vulnerable people, a move on strategy allows communities to free up existing inventory for individuals with the highest service needs, those who have been homeless for the longest time, and/or those with the greatest vulnerabilities. PHAs can work with local supportive housing providers (i.e., CoC) to identify individuals and families that no longer need intensive support services, and offer vouchers to these households allowing them to continue receiving assistance.

### Where Can PHAs Do This?

All PHAs can use waiting list preferences to make affordable housing opportunities available to persons who are ready to move on from PSH.

This strategy is suggested for:

- Communities with a significant number of PSH units that have not been well-targeted to people with long histories of homelessness and the greatest barriers to housing stability;
- Communities with large numbers of people experiencing chronic homelessness, including if many of these people are unsheltered; and
- Communities in which PHAs and their governing boards may be reluctant to dedicate housing opportunities or provide waiting list preferences for people who are currently experiencing homelessness, because they lack experience serving this population or have not established partnerships with service providers to meet the needs of people as they exit homelessness. These PHAs may be more comfortable providing housing opportunities for people who are ready to move on after achieving stability in PSH and are likely to need less intensive ongoing supportive services.

#### Examples

- The **Chicago Housing Authority** launched “Moving On,” a pilot program for persons living in PSH who no longer need intensive services and want to move to other affordable housing in the community. Applicants with stable housing histories can move on to other housing using a Housing Choice Voucher. When program participants move out of PSH, the units they vacate must be targeted to a priority population identified through Chicago’s Central Referral System. For more information about the program, see this profile in the [CSH PSH Toolkit](#)

### Examples (continued)

- The **Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA)** has created a “Moving On” preference by including an admission preference in the Housing Choice Voucher program for formerly homeless Shelter Plus Care (S+C) residents who have stabilized their lives in that program and no longer require the supportive housing environment in order to maintain their housing. Transfer to the voucher program enables people who previously experienced homelessness to exercise tenant mobility and move on with their lives, and this frees up their supportive housing unit for a new person experiencing chronic homelessness who needs it.