



HOUSING AUTHORITY

OF THE COUNTY OF KERN

Creating brighter futures...one home, one family at a time

NEWS RELEASE/MEDIA ADVISORY

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Housing Authority of the County of Kern Selected for Moving to Work Demonstration Program

On Friday, May 7th, the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) announced the selection of the Housing Authority of the County of Kern (Housing Authority) for the Moving to Work (MTW) Demonstration Program. **One of only ten housing authorities nationwide** and the only in California to be selected for MTW – Cohort #2, the Housing Authority will test rent reform strategies in its Low Income Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs. The goal is to create incentives for assisted households to find employment and increase their earnings. Under the current rules, a family's share of rent increases as their income increases but does not change if their income remains the same. This can create a disincentive to increase earnings. Under the MTW program, randomly selected households will be enrolled in an alternative rent structure that increases the rent each year regardless of changes in income. Elderly and disabled households are exempt from the MTW program.

HUD will gather data from the program to determine if the alternative rent structure helps motivate families to increase their income. MTW will also provide additional flexibility in how HUD funds are utilized locally so services can be focus on promoting self-sufficiency.

"The Housing Authority is honored to be selected for the Moving to Work program and is eager to continue the transformation of our Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs to better encourage employment and self-sufficiency", said Stephen Pelz, Executive Director.

MTW is expected to begin in early 2022. For more information, please contact Stephen Pelz at (661) 631-8500 ext. 2005.

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