

# **Empowering Our Elm City:**

Giving families quality choice opportunities with the supports to thrive.

ECC strives to provide families with the greatest choices around their housing outcomes. We do this through reinvestment in under resourced communities and creation of pathways for families into new communities in neighborhoods that are not currently impacted by concentrated poverty and that may offer additional education choices for children, a greater range of employment options, and better health and safety outcomes. Our redevelopment efforts have poured over \$800 m into impacted communities. Our comprehensive mobility counseling program provides housing search assistance, financial incentives, post-move services, and landlord recruitment, opportunities.

### **OUR MOBILITY GOALS:**

- Enhance our comprehensive mobility program through program modifications, staff and supervisory training and ongoing assessment and evaluation to:
  - Increase the number of HCV families who lease in non-impacted areas.
  - Increase awareness of opportunity areas in the New Haven County area.
  - Recruit new HCV landlords in opportunity areas in the New Haven County area.
  - Establish partnerships with other organizations that can assist in providing opportunities for increased mobility options and services.
  - Reinvest in under resourced communities.
- Assess the effectiveness of ECC/HANH's mobility-related services with an emphasis on those that have the greatest impacts on participant ability to move to higher opportunity areas.
  - Dispel stereotypes regarding the HCV program.
  - Increase participant awareness of mobility options, fair housing issues and resources.
  - Identify and pursue funding options to support ongoing mobility services.
  - Develop more affordable housing of choice in impacted communities.
  - Pursue local and statewide policy change to support the development of affordable housing in non-impacted areas.

#### **OUR MOBILITY WORK:**

## Moving to Work (MTW) Initiatives.

ECC/HANH was awarded its MTW designation in 2001. Through this designation, we have the ability to create innovative local approaches to increase housing choice, increase self-sufficiency and create greater cost-effectiveness. Currently, there are nearly two dozen initiatives that are ongoing to expand housing choice opportunities. Some examples include:

- Mixed Finance and Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) redevelopment of public housing developments
- In-house Relocation Department that provides mobility counseling, housing search, landlord engagement and more
- HCV mobility initiatives efforts that include landlord incentives, participant incentives and mobility counseling
- Expanded jurisdiction authority regarding development activities and Project Based Voucher placement
- Non-traditional supportive housing programs
- Increased allowable percentage of Project Based Vouchers (PBV) in developments
- Increasing the percentage of HCV budget authority that may be project-based





### **Mobility Services.**

Mobility services take place across several departments including Relocation, CED and HCV. Services are focused on family engagement, assessment, unit search, landlord engagement and landlord retention.

### Acquisition and Development.

The Glendower Group, the development instrumentality of ECC/HANH, includes a focus on the acquisition of new properties both within and beyond currently impacted areas to increase families access to high-quality affordable units in areas of their choice.

## Community and Economic Development (CED) Department.

This department serves as the social service provider with a focus on increasing family self-sufficiency, positive youth development and high quality of life. Families are assisted in developing their own goals, addressing barriers and goal attainment through work with ECC/HANH Resident Service Coordinators and FSS Coordinators. Families are assisted in their transition from subsidized housing through initiatives such as our JumpStart Program.

## Mobility Consulting Solicitation.

With this solicitation, we will review our current program, create evaluation tools, research best practices/successes, and administer a communication plan as well as resources for all stakeholders.

To learn more about Elm City Communities/the Housing Authority of New Haven's work and mobility services visit elmcitycommunities.org

## Legislation and Advocacy.

Policy impacts mobility. Existing legislation can hinder efforts, and so legislation reform, proposals, and advocacy are important.

Our legislative agenda, testimonies, and partnerships are how we address related policies.

Additionally, ECC/HANH is a founding member of a statewide collaborative called Growing Together Connecticut (GTCT) which is aimed at increasing access to quality affordable housing in every community in our state. It actively works to generate more housing choices and promote equitable revitalization of under-resourced communities.

