

Housing Choice Vouchers: Using Research to Spur New Approaches and Greater Equity

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Initial Moving to Opportunity (MTO) project findings show that adults using housing vouchers to move to higher opportunity neighborhoods do not experience positive economic outcomes like better earnings or higher employment rates.

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A later study demonstrates that MTO had important long-term education and earnings outcomes for individuals whose families moved to higher-opportunity neighborhoods when they were younger than 13.

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HUD uses this and other research to test using Small Area Fair Market Rents (SAFMR) when determining voucher amounts in order to incentivize families to move to higher opportunity neighborhoods within their cities. This change demonstrates positive results.

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Creating Moves to Opportunity (CMTO) in Seattle tests a more personalized intervention that provides families with rental application coaching, opportunity area education, housing search assistance, and flexible financial assistance as well as assisting landlords with barriers.

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Research demonstrates that 54% of families who participate in CMTO move to higher opportunity neighborhoods compared to 14% of families in a control group, an even more powerful effect than implementing SAFMRs. CMTO plans to scale to additional cities in the future.

**Read the full case study here:
forumfyi.org/blog/cmto/**