



Oakland Housing
Authority

NEWS RELEASE/MEDIA ADVISORY

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Oakland Housing Authority Commissioner Janny Castillo Named Member of HUDs New Moving to Work Advisory Committee

HUD appoints 15 committee members for advice and research on the development of seven-year MTW expansion

OAKLAND, CA- An Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) Board of Commissioners member, Janny Castillo, has been selected as one of 15 people from housing authorities across the country to serve on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) new Moving to Work expansion advisory committee.

Moving to Work, or MTW, is a HUD demonstration program that provides public housing authorities (PHAs) the unique opportunity to design and test innovative, locally designed strategies that use Federal dollars more efficiently to help residents secure employment, become self-sufficient, and increase housing choices for low-income families. The MTW designation gives housing authorities exemptions from many existing public housing and voucher rules providing greater flexibility with how they use their Federal funds.

The 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act (the Act), signed by President Obama in December 2015, authorizes HUD to expand the MTW demonstration by an additional 100 public housing authorities (PHA) over seven years. Agencies selected as part of the MTW expansion must be high performers, meet certain site selection requirements, and represent geographic diversity. This expansion required HUD to develop a federal research advisory committee. The new MTW advisory committee consists of residents and staff of existing MTW public housing agencies, professional independent researchers, and program experts from HUD. The advisory committee will provide advice to HUD in the development of specific policy proposals and methods of research and evaluation.

Janny Castillo will serve the advisory committee as a former resident of OHA and offer advice based on the achievements of an existing MTW PHA. During her 22 years as a client of OHA, Castillo served on the Resident Advisory Board for over 12 years. She also took advantage of programs that offered opportunities for self-sufficiency, including the Family Self-Sufficiency Program and the Section 8 Home Ownership Program. Castillo has now been an Oakland homeowner for over six years. She credits her success to OHA and the programs that help families transition out of

subsidized housing. Castillo's experience as a client and the support she received from staff motivated her to serve on OHA's Board of Commissioners and the Education Committee.

"We are thrilled to have Janny Castillo represent the Oakland Housing Authority in Washington, D.C. as a member of the MTW advisory committee. We trust that Janny's insights on the process and knowledge of what works and what has not worked within Oakland will serve her well as she sits at the table working toward a successful MTW expansion," stated Eric Johnson, Executive Director of the Oakland Housing Authority.

OHA is one of 39 public housing authorities in the nation currently designated as an MTW agency. On December 16, 2015, Congress approved the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act extending existing MTW Agreements through 2028, and authorizing HUD to expand the MTW demonstration program by an additional 100 high performing PHAs. These 100 agencies will be added in cohorts and will be directed to implement at least one specific policy to facilitate comparison and evaluation.

Throughout this first year of the expansion, the committee will review comments on www.hud.gov/mtw and request applications from possible new MTW agencies. HUD anticipates holding two conference calls with the advisory committee this summer to discuss recommendations of the policies to be studied in the expansion, and one in-person meeting in late summer to narrow down the policies and to discuss the evaluation. During fall 2016 the notice will be published to select the initial cohort of MTW PHAs to which PHA applicants will have up to four months to submit their applications. The selection for the initial cohort of new MTW PHAs is scheduled for next spring/summer. Additional cohorts of MTW PHAs will be added, based on the advice of the advisory committee, through 2020.

Castillo will be joined on the committee by Josh Meehan, Keene Housing; Austin Simms, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Housing Authority; Chris Lamberty, Lincoln Housing Authority; David Nisivoccia, San Antonio Housing Authority; Adrienne Todman, District of Columbia Housing Authority; Cindy Fernandez, former resident of the Housing Authority of Tulare County; Asia Coney, resident of the Philadelphia Housing Authority; Larry Orr, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University; Heather Schwartz, Ph.D., RAND Corporation; Mark Joseph, Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University; Stefanie DeLuca, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University; Jill Khadduri, Ph.D., Abt Associates; Marianne Nazzaro, HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing; and Todd Richardson, HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research.

About the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA)

The Oakland Housing Authority is the largest provider of affordable housing in the City of Oakland and proudly delivers diverse housing choices to over 16,400 households in a service-oriented environment, while improving and expanding housing options for future generations. For more information about the OHA, please contact us at info@oakha.org, visit our website at www.oakha.org, or call 510-874-1653.

About the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development works to create quality and affordable housing for all Americans. The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's main goal is to create housing that is sustainable, inclusive, and strong for communities in the United States. For more information about the U.S. HUD Moving to Work Expansion Demonstration, please visit http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/mtw/expansion.

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