

PHA Name : Bristol Housing Authority

PHA Code : CT023

MTW Supplement for PHA Fiscal Year Beginning : (MM/DD/YYYY): 7/1/2023

PHA Program Type: Combined

MTW Cohort Number: Asset Building

MTW Supplement Submission Type: Annual Submission

B. MTW Supplement Narrative.

The Housing Authority of the City of Bristol (BHA) applied for Moving-to-Work (MTW) Cohort# 5: Asset Building Status and was awarded MTW status in September 2022.

The BHA has invested heavily in its relationship with its residents over the years, including Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS), the Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Program, and many other initiatives in support of residents. MTW Cohort# 5: Asset Building provides the Housing Authority of the City of Bristol the opportunity to further build on its relationship with residents and support them in achieving financial independence. This Asset Building Cohort allows the BHA to benefit residents very directly: Selected residents from the Federal Conventional Public Housing Program (Section 9) will have the opportunity to have their monthly rent payments reported to between one and three of the National Credit Bureaus, unless they opt out, in order to build their credit profile for such things as home and car purchases (This is designated as Option# B in MTW Cohort# 5). Under this option, the BHA would report the public housing rent payments of public housing households that enroll in the program through an informed consent process to one or more credit bureaus with the goal of building credit for those households.

MTW agencies are freed up from many regulatory restrictions within the Section 8 and Section 9 Programs, and they are provided flexibility in merging their financial accounts, such that they can do new and creative things locally, such as resident services and housing development. The Housing Authority of the City of Bristol is very excited to participate in the MTW demonstration and for the opportunity of further benefiting its residents. The Housing Authority of the City of Bristol will use all resources and where appropriate, fungibility to enhance housing and program opportunities for its residents and will use the MTW Cohort# 5: Asset Building status as a way to provide top level housing resources.

The BHA seeks to establish and constantly explores new opportunities to partner with other communities and agencies to expand additional affordable housing opportunities. The BHA will use the additional resources and regulatory and budget flexibility that comes with MTW status to further improve the BHA's Housing Programs, including both HCV's and Conventional Federal Public Housing.

Along with further developing resident services, the BHA will continue its efforts to develop much-needed housing for low income, elderly, non-elderly disabled, homeless, veteran and family populations. The Housing Authority of the City of Bristol seeks to manage and operate an effective Housing Choice Voucher Program that provides the benefit of better housing options to its qualified HCV residents. In order to accomplish this, The Housing Authority of the City of Bristol is always making substantial efforts to improve technology, customer service and communication with its residents to enhance opportunities.

As a MTW Cohort# 5: Asset Building Housing Authority, The Housing Authority of the City of Bristol will continue to enact policies and procedures that will build strong relationships with residents and resident organizations, provide housing choice for qualifying HCV tenants, and support tenants and their families in achieving self-sufficiency.

C. The policies that the MTW agency is using or has used (currently implement, plan to implement in the submission year, plan to discontinue, previously discontinued).

1. Tenant Rent Policies	
2. Payment Standards and Rent Reasonableness	
d. Rent Reasonableness – Third-Party Requirement (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
3. Reexaminations	
a. Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (PH)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
b. Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
c. Self-Certification of Assets (PH)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
d. Self-Certification of Assets (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
4. Landlord Leasing Incentives	
5. Housing Quality Standards (HQS)	
a. Pre-Qualifying Unit Inspections (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
c. Third-Party Requirement (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
6. Short-Term Assistance	
7. Term-Limited Assistance	
8. Increase Elderly Age (PH & HCV)	
9. Project-Based Voucher Program Flexibilities	
a. Increase PBV Program Cap (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
b. Increase PBV Project Cap (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
c. Elimination of PBV Selection Process for PHA-owned Projects Without Improvement, Development, or Replacement (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
d. Alternative PBV Selection Process (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
f. Increase PBV HAP Contract Length (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
h. Limit Portability for PBV Units (HCV)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
10. Family Self-Sufficiency Program with MTW Flexibility	
11. MTW Self-Sufficiency Program	
12. Work Requirement	
13. Use of Public Housing as an Incentive for Economic Progress (PH)	
14. Moving on Policy	
15. Acquisition without Prior HUD Approval (PH)	
Acquisition without Prior HUD Approval (PH)	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year
16. Deconcentration of Poverty in Public Housing Policy (PH)	
17. Local, Non-Traditional Activities	
c. Housing Development Programs	Plan to Implement in the Submission Year

C. MTW Activities Plan that Bristol Housing Authority Plans to Implement in the Submission Year or Is Currently Implementing

2.d. - Rent Reasonableness – Third-Party Requirement (HCV)
<p>Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative</p> <p>Description: BHA will use MTW flexibility to perform rent reasonable determinations on units that it owns, manages, and/or controls. BHA will make reasonable rent determinations with the support of third-party software that taps into a national database. This process will ensure fair and valid determinations.</p> <p>Agency goals for MTW Activity: Increase rent reasonable turn window to support on-time reporting. This waiver supports BHA's larger goal of using MTW flexibility to streamline administrative processes and reduce agency costs.</p>

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Cost effectiveness

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Decreased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

Please explain or upload a description of the quality assurance method.

Reasonable rent determinations will be made with the support of a third-party database that is updated annually based on market conditions.

No document is attached.

Please explain or upload a description of the rent reasonableness determination method.

The agency will determine rent reasonableness with the support of third-party software. BHA will consider information for each type of unit, including location, quality, size, type, age of unit, amenities, maintenance, and utilities to be provided by the owner.

No document is attached.

3.a. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (PH)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

BHA may implement a triennial reexamination schedule for some elderly and disabled households. If a household meets the following three criteria, it will be enrolled in triennial reexaminations.

- the head of household, co-head, and/or spouse is elderly or disabled,
- the only current income in the household is fixed income (e.g., social security, pension), and
- there are no minors in the household.

If a household is enrolled in triennial reexaminations and no longer meets these criteria, they will return to annual reexaminations.

For these households, the standard rent calculation method will be used, and households will continue to receive the elderly/disabled allowance and be eligible to claim unreimbursed medical/disability expenses, if certified and claimed by the household. Annual household income will be determined as current and as anticipated once every three years. If a household's income increases in between triennial reexaminations, the household's total tenant payment (TTP) will not increase. While TTP will not increase, the household's rent may increase if their unit's gross rent is above their payment standard. At their annual lease anniversary, BHA will not apply the applicable Cost-of-Living Adjustments for fixed-income households. However, as described in Activity: 1.u. – Standard Deductions (HCV), fixed-income households will also be given an opportunity to certify their medical and/or disability expenses and to qualify for the MTW standard expense deduction. If a fixed-income household claims a hardship, they may go through the process outlined in the hardship and grievance policy if applicable, by providing proof of medical/disability expenses above the MTW standard expense deduction.

Households may continue to request interim reexaminations due to a decrease in income, and/or increases in eligible expenses through the hardship policy. Applicable households will be able to file one interim reexamination for decreases in income and/or increases in eligible expenses. BHA must allow at least one interim adjustment per year at the request of the household if the household gross income has decreased 10 percent or more. BHA must conduct an interim

reexamination of family income when it becomes aware that the family's adjusted income has changed by an amount that it estimates will result in an increase of ten percent or more in annual adjusted income or such other amount established by HUD through notice, except BHA may not consider any increase in the earned income of the family when estimating or calculating whether the family's adjusted income has increased, unless the family has previously received an interim reduction at their request because of any changes in income since the last examination during the certification period; and BHA may choose not to conduct an interim reexamination in the last three months of a certification period. In other words, BHAs may not consider a family's increases in earned income for the purposes of an interim reexamination unless the family had previously undergone an interim reexamination during the year for any decrease in income. If the family has undergone an interim reexamination for a decrease in income after the completion of the last reexamination, BHA also has discretion regarding whether or not to count increases in earned income when estimating or calculating whether the family's adjusted income has increased. In determining the income for any family, BHA may make other adjustments as it considers appropriate to reflect current income, taking into consideration any redetermination of income during such prior year(s).

If a household believes they have another circumstance that qualifies as a financial hardship, they may request a hardship. An impact analysis and full hardship policy are included with this Supplement.

In determining the income for any family, BHA may make other adjustments as it considers appropriate to reflect current income, taking into consideration any redetermination of income during such prior year(s).

Triennial reexaminations for these households are expected to begin with reexaminations starting in January 2024. When triennial reexaminations begin for these current households, all newly admitted households who meet the above criteria will also be enrolled in triennial reexaminations.

This schedule will also include only reviewing the EIV at the triennial recertification rather than annually, implementing a release form that is valid for 45 months, and updating the payment standard and utility allowance at the time of a rent increase for the affected households. In addition, households on a triennial recertification schedule will not utilize the IVT Report as this reporting requirement is not consistent with the triennial reporting of income and will create an administrative burden that does not assist in the establishment of the level of subsidy the family receives and will increase

administrative burden o

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Cost effectiveness

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Decreased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies only to a subset or subsets of assisted households

Does the MTW activity apply only to new admissions, only to currently assisted households, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households?

New admissions and currently assisted households

Does the MTW activity apply to all family types or only to selected family types?

The MTW activity applies only to selected family types

Please select the family types subject to this MTW activity.

Elderly families; Disabled families (to the extent those families are not exempt via a reasonable accommodation); Other – another specifically defined target population or populations.

If Other Selected in Previous Question: Please describe this target population in the text box.

The MTW activity applies to families where:

- the head of household, co-head, and/or spouse is elderly or disabled,
- the only current income in the household is fixed income (e.g., social security, pension), and
- there are no minors in the household.

Does the MTW activity apply to all public housing developments?

The MTW activity applies to specific developments

Which developments participate in the MTW activity?

The MTW activity applies to all Federal Housing developments including Cambridge Park and Scattered Sites, Bonnie Acres, John F. Kennedy Apartments, and Gaylord Towers.

Does this MTW activity require a hardship policy?

Yes

This document is attached.

Does the hardship policy apply to more than this MTW activity?

No

Has the MTW agency modified the hardship policy since the last submission of the MTW Supplement?

No

How many hardship requests have been received associated with this activity in the past year?

No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

Does the MTW activity require an impact analysis?

Yes

This document is attached.

Does the impact analysis apply to more than this MTW activity?

No

What is the recertification schedule?

Once every three years

How many interim recertifications per year may a household request?

1

Please describe briefly how the MTW agency plans to address changes in family/household circumstances under the alternative reexamination schedule.

Family circumstances may change throughout the period between triennial reexaminations and between applicable households' annual lease anniversaries. HUD and BHA policies dictate what kinds of information about changes in family

circumstances must be reported, and under what circumstances the BHA must process interim reexaminations to reflect those changes. HUD regulations also permit the BHA to conduct interim reexaminations of income or family composition at any time. When an interim reexamination is conducted, only those factors that have changed are verified and adjusted [HCV GB, p. 12-10]. In addition to specifying what information the family must report, HUD regulations permit the family to request an interim determination if other aspects of the family's income or composition change. The BHA must complete the interim reexamination within a reasonable time after the family's request. In determining the income for any family, BHA may make other adjustments as it considers appropriate to reflect current income, taking into consideration any redetermination of income during such prior year(s).

At their annual lease anniversary between triennial reexaminations, BHA will not apply the applicable Cost-of-Living Adjustments for fixed-income households based on the source of fixed-income, where fixed income households will also be given an opportunity to certify their medical and/or disability expenses and provide proof of changes in those amounts if applicable.

There will be no limit to the number of interim reexaminations allowed to be requested. If a household believes they have another circumstance that qualifies as a financial hardship, they may request a hardship. An impact analysis and full hardship policy are included with this Supplement.

3.b. - Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (HCV)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

BHA may implement a triennial reexamination schedule for some elderly and disabled households. If a household meets the following three criteria, it will be enrolled in triennial reexaminations.

- the head of household, co-head, and/or spouse is elderly or disabled,
- the only current income in the household is fixed income (e.g., social security, pension), and
- there are no minors in the household.

If a household is enrolled in triennial reexaminations and no longer meets these criteria, they will return to annual reexaminations.

For these households, the standard rent calculation method will be used, and households will continue to receive the elderly/disabled allowance and be eligible to claim unreimbursed medical/disability expenses, if certified and claimed by the household. Annual household income will be determined as current and as anticipated once every three years. If a household's income increases in between triennial reexaminations, the household's total tenant payment (TTP) will not increase. While TTP will not increase, the household's rent may increase if their unit's gross rent is above their payment standard. At their annual lease anniversary, BHA will not apply the applicable Cost-of-Living Adjustments for fixed-income households. However, as described in Activity: 1.u. – Standard Deductions (HCV), fixed-income households will also be given an opportunity to certify their medical and/or disability expenses and to qualify for the MTW standard expense deduction. If a fixed-income household claims a hardship, they may go through the process outlined in the hardship and grievance policy if applicable, by providing proof of medical/disability expenses above the MTW standard expense deduction.

Households may continue to request interim reexaminations due to a decrease in income, and/or increases in eligible expenses through the hardship policy. Applicable households will be able to file one interim reexamination for decreases in income and/or increases in eligible expenses. BHA must allow at least one interim adjustment per year at the request of the household if the household gross income has decreased 10 percent or more. BHA must conduct an interim reexamination of family income when it becomes aware that the family's adjusted income has changed by an amount that it estimates will result in an increase of ten percent or more in annual adjusted income or such other amount established by HUD through notice, except BHA may not consider any increase in the earned income of the family when estimating or calculating whether the family's adjusted income has increased, unless the family has previously received an interim reduction at their request because of any changes in income since the last examination during the certification period; and BHA may choose not to conduct an interim reexamination in the last three months of a certification period. In other words, BHAs may not consider a family's increases in earned income for the purposes of an interim reexamination unless the family had previously undergone an interim reexamination during the year for any decrease in income. If the family has undergone an interim reexamination for a decrease in income after the completion of the last reexamination, BHA also has discretion regarding whether or not to count increases in earned income when estimating or calculating whether the family's adjusted income has increased. In determining the income for any family, BHA may make other adjustments as it considers appropriate to reflect current income, taking into consideration any redetermination of income during such prior year(s).

If a household believes they have another circumstance that qualifies as a financial hardship, they may request a hardship. An impact analysis and full hardship policy are included with this Supplement.

In determining the income for any family, BHA may make other adjustments as it considers appropriate to reflect current

income, taking into consideration any redetermination of income during such prior year(s).

Triennial reexaminations for these households are expected to begin with reexaminations starting in January 2024. When triennial reexaminations begin for these current households, all newly admitted households who meet the above criteria will also be enrolled in triennial reexaminations.

This schedule will also include only reviewing the EIV at the triennial recertification rather than annually, implementing a release form that is valid for 45 months, and updating the payment standard and utility allowance at the time of a rent increase for the affected households. In addition, households on a triennial recertification schedule will not utilize the IVT Report as this reporting requirement is not consistent with the triennial reporting of income and will create an administrative burden that does not assist in the establishment of the level of subsidy the family receives and will increase administrative burden o

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Cost effectiveness

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Decreased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies only to a subset or subsets of assisted households

Does the MTW activity apply only to new admissions, only to currently assisted households, or to both new admissions and currently assisted households?

New admissions and currently assisted households

Does the MTW activity apply to all family types or only to selected family types?

The MTW activity applies only to selected family types

Please select the family types subject to this MTW activity.

Elderly families; Disabled families (to the extent those families are not exempt via a reasonable accommodation); Other – another specifically defined target population or populations.

If Other Selected in Previous Question: Please describe this target population in the text box.

The MTW activity applies to families where:

- the head of household, co-head, and/or spouse is elderly or disabled,
- the only current income in the household is fixed income (e.g., social security, pension), and
- there are no minors in the household.

Does the MTW activity apply to all HCV tenant-based units and properties with project-based vouchers?

The MTW activity applies to specific tenant-based units and/or properties with project-based vouchers

Please describe which tenant-based units and/or properties with project-based vouchers participate in the MTW activity.

Does this MTW activity require a hardship policy?

Yes

This document is attached.

Does the hardship policy apply to more than this MTW activity?

No

Has the MTW agency modified the hardship policy since the last submission of the MTW Supplement?

No

How many hardship requests have been received associated with this activity in the past year?

No hardship were requested in the most recent fiscal year.

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

Does the MTW activity require an impact analysis?

Yes

This document is attached.

What is the recertification schedule?

Once every three years

How many interim recertifications per year may a household request?

1

Please describe briefly how the MTW agency plans to address changes in family/household circumstances under the alternative reexamination schedule.

Family circumstances may change throughout the period between triennial reexaminations and between applicable households' annual lease anniversaries. HUD and BHA policies dictate what kinds of information about changes in family circumstances must be reported, and under what circumstances the BHA must process interim reexaminations to reflect those changes. HUD regulations also permit the BHA to conduct interim reexaminations of income or family composition at any time. When an interim reexamination is conducted, only those factors that have changed are verified and adjusted [HCV GB, p. 12-10]. In addition to specifying what information the family must report, HUD regulations permit the family to request an interim determination if other aspects of the family's income or composition change. The BHA must complete the interim reexamination within a reasonable time after the family's request. In determining the income for any family, BHA may make other adjustments as it considers appropriate to reflect current income, taking into consideration any redetermination of income during such prior year(s).

At their annual lease anniversary between triennial reexaminations, BHA will not apply the applicable Cost-of-Living Adjustments for fixed-income households based on the source of fixed-income, where fixed income households will also be given an opportunity to certify their medical and/or disability expenses and provide proof of changes in those amounts if applicable.

There will be no limit to the number of interim reexaminations allowed to be requested. If a household believes they have another circumstance that qualifies as a financial hardship, they may request a hardship. An impact analysis and full hardship policy are included with this Supplement.

3.c. - Self-Certification of Assets (PH)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

BHA will allow participants and applicants (through a safe harbor waiver) to self-certify their assets up to \$50,000.

Agency goals for MTW Activity:

Decrease administrative time and costs required to follow up and secure documents, allowing staff to focus on other priorities. This may also lower barriers to participants in obtaining asset verification.

This waiver may improve cost effectiveness in our effort to reduce the administrative burden while still maintaining the integrity of the rent calculation process. Staff spend substantial amounts of administrative time verifying assets that do not impact participants' rent portions. Participants know the approximate balances in their accounts and rarely receive interest payments. By allowing them to self-certify, BHA will free up staff time to accomplish other tasks and require less burdensome documentation of participants.

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Cost effectiveness

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Decreased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

Please state the dollar threshold for the self-certification of assets.

\$50,000.

3.d. - Self-Certification of Assets (HCV)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

BHA will allow participants and applicants (through a safe harbor waiver) to self-certify their assets up to \$50,000.

Agency goals for MTW Activity:

Decrease administrative time and costs required to follow up and secure documents, allowing staff to focus on other priorities. This may also lower barriers to participants in obtaining asset verification.

This waiver may improve cost effectiveness in our effort to reduce the administrative burden while still maintaining the integrity of the rent calculation process. Staff spend substantial amounts of administrative time verifying assets that do not impact participants' rent portions. Participants know the approximate balances in their accounts and rarely receive interest payments. By allowing them to self-certify, BHA will free up staff time to accomplish other tasks and require less burdensome documentation of participants.

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Cost effectiveness

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Decreased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

Please state the dollar threshold for the self-certification of assets.

\$50,000.

5.a. - Pre-Qualifying Unit Inspections (HCV)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

BHA will allow prequalifying unit inspections (also known as a pre-inspection). Passing pre-qualifying inspections will be valid for 90 days from the passed inspection date. Participants will be able to request an interim inspection after move-in as needed.

Agency goals for MTW Activity:

The apartment industry relies on a seamless turnover to meet its overhead costs and the financial implications of such delays are sufficient to deter them from participating in the program. Property owners lose rental revenue trying to get an HQS inspection scheduled for the individual apartment units...when in fact the family is ready to move in immediately. So not only do they lose but the voucher holder loses too because they are anxious to move in and find housing.

This activity will accelerate the lease-up process and minimize property owners' lost revenue during a period of vacancy and make the process closer to the unassisted rental market, which will incentivize their participation and/or retention in the voucher program all in service of increasing housing choice for voucher holders/households.

The goal of these inspections is to lessen the time it takes for a voucher holder to move into a unit and encourage participation from new landlords in BHA's service area, by offering additional customer service. New landlords can understand the current HUD inspection standards through a pre-qualifying inspection, quickly make their repairs, and then be ready for a voucher holder tenant. The voucher holder will be able to move into the unit faster because they will not be waiting for an inspection, which may fail the first time and take more time to pass a re-inspection. Landlords will decrease their vacancy time and income lost. The pre-qualifying unit inspections are part of a larger landlord incentives initiative to increase the supply of affordable housing, maintain quality landlords and units, and increase housing options in areas of opportunity. Pre-qualifying unit inspections will shorten the timeframe landlords must wait during the Request for Tenancy Approval and normal inspection process (a deterrent for some landlords) and ensure more quality units are available to voucher holders.

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Housing choice

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Decreased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

How long is the pre-inspection valid for?

The pre-inspection is valid for 90 days.

5.c. - Third-Party Requirement (HCV)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

BHA will perform HQS inspections on project-based units that it owns, manages, and/or controls.

Agency goals for MTW Activity:

Streamline the HQS inspection process to match non-PHA owned HQS inspections. This waiver supports BHA's larger goal of using MTW flexibility to streamline administrative processes and reduce agency costs.

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Cost effectiveness

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Decreased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

Please explain or upload the description of the quality assurance method:

Following will explain the quality assurance method

A BHA supervisor will re-inspect a sample of units (10% quarterly) for quality control of HQS inspections in accordance with 24 CFR 982.405(b) and 24 CFR 985.2.

No document is attached.

9.a. - Increase PBV Program Cap (HCV)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

BHA will increase the number of authorized units it project-bases.

Agency goals for MTW Activity:

Sometimes, people do not necessarily associate affordable housing at 30% of low-income households' monthly adjusted income in both tenant-based voucher and project-based assistance programs as directly relating to self-sufficiency.

However, the PBV program offers households housing costs at a 30% affordability threshold. With the right type of wrap around services pertinent to each population type and household, coupled with this activity and safe harbor waiver, BHA believes that significantly greater numbers of households will be able to become self-sufficient.

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Self-sufficiency

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Neutral (no cost implications)

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

What percentage of total authorized HCV units will be authorized for project-basing?

50.00%

9.b. - Increase PBV Project Cap (HCV)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

BHA may raise the Project Based Voucher cap within a project up to 100%.

Agency goals for MTW Activity:

Create family stability in an environment with support to encourage family self-sufficiency.

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Self-sufficiency

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Neutral (no cost implications)

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

9.c. - Elimination of PBV Selection Process for PHA-owned Projects Without Improvement, Development, or Replacement (HCV)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW

activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

BHA will eliminate the selection process in the award of PBV to properties owned by the agency that are not public housing without engaging in an initiative to improve, develop, or replace a public housing property or site.

Agency goals for MTW Activity:

Streamline the selection process for PBV. This waiver supports BHA's larger goal of using MTW flexibility to streamline administrative processes.

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Cost effectiveness

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Decreased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

9.d. - Alternative PBV Selection Process (HCV)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

The agency may establish an alternative competitive process in the award of PBVs that are owned by non-profit, for-profit housing entities, or by the agency that are not public housing.

Agency goals for MTW Activity:

BHA's goal for this request is to increase cost effectiveness by eliminating this process and increase housing choice.

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Cost effectiveness

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Decreased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

9.f. - Increase PBV HAP Contract Length (HCV)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

BHA may lengthen the PBV HAP contract length up to 50 years.

Agency goals for MTW Activity:

This waiver supports BHA's larger goal of using MTW flexibility to both streamline administrative processes in the PBV HAP contract length terms that can be offered for cost effectiveness and to provide greater affordability in

voucher-assisted households' income to housing cost burdens which directly impacts their long-term self-sufficiency.

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Cost effectiveness; Self-sufficiency

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Decreased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

9.h. - Limit Portability for PBV Units (HCV)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

BHA is proposing to change the current requirement to provide a tenant-based voucher when requested by a PBV household from 12 months after PBV tenancy to 24 months. Because of the limited availability of tenant-based vouchers in our community, the number of our unassisted or waiting list households is considerable, waiting to access a tenant-based voucher – with many more in our community who are eligible, but not yet on any waitlist.

Per the MTW Operations Notice, this activity will operate within the following Safe Harbors:

- i. Portability under this activity must not be restricted for more than 24 months.
- ii. The agency must have a clear and uniform policy in place to address how move requests are received and how they are approved/denied for PBV households.
- iii. Participants must still retain the ability to request a tenant-based voucher for reasonable accommodation according to existing rules.

Agency goals for MTW Activity:

The goal of this activity is to reduce cost and achieve greater cost effectiveness in administrative cost expenditures as well as to increase housing choices for low-income families that are unassisted / on BHA's waiting list at greater rates than they otherwise would be served without this activity.

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Cost effectiveness; Housing choice

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Decreased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

15. - Acquisition without Prior HUD Approval (PH)

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

BHA proposes uses of this activity to acquire public housing sites without prior HUD approval. This activity allows MTW agencies flexibility around the timing of HUD's approval, but not the content of the approval. When acquiring the sites, BHA must have all submission materials in place as if HUD were approving the acquisition proposal prior to acquisition. BHA must provide the materials to the HUD Field Office for approval within 30-days of acquisition. If the Department is unable to approve the acquisition based on the materials submitted, then BHA must repay the cost of acquisition with non-federal funds.

Agency goals for MTW Activity:

The goal of this activity is for more expeditious acquisitions, resulting in the ability to competitively negotiate prices as owners as BHA would not have to wait unreasonable periods of time to complete the sale. Acquisition of sites through this activity would also increase the supply of high-quality affordable housing available to the residents in BHA's service area. BHA's proposed use of this activity to acquire sites without prior HUD approval and certify that HUD's site selection requirements have been met, would facilitate its development activities.

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Cost effectiveness; Housing choice

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Decreased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

17.c. - Housing Development Programs

Describe the MTW activity, the MTW agency's goal(s) for the MTW activity, and, if applicable, how the MTW activity contributes to a larger initiative

Description:

Under this activity, BHA may utilize MTW funding to acquire, renovate and/or build affordable housing units that meet HUD requirements for MTW "local, non-traditional housing" as defined in HUD PIH Notice 2011-45 or successor notices. BHA may utilize this activity to provide gap financing (grants or loans) to affordable housing developments including, but not limited to: PBV developments, Low Income Housing Tax Credit developments and/or other eligible development activities, subject to approval by the BHA's Board of Commissioners. BHA may also use MTW funds as gap financing to support local nonprofits in the acquisition, rehabilitation, or development of small- to medium-sized properties. MTW funds likely would be provided in the form of a loan or recoverable grant. MMNA may also use MTW funds for gap financing and to support its other owned or substantially controlled developments to leverage third-party debt in the form of tax-exempt bond financing, LIHTC equity, and other local sources. BHA may expend MTW funds including Housing Assistance Payments and/or HCV Administrative Fee reserves on such activities if it shall not expend more than 10% of its Housing Assistance Payments budget on local, non-traditional activities including this housing development activity.

In implementing this activity, BHA shall: 1) ensure that families assisted meet the HUD definition of "low-income"; 2) comply with PIH Notice 2011-45 as applicable; 3) comply with Section 30 of the US Housing Act of 1937; and 4) Competitively bid any MTW funding awarded through this activity to a third-party provider.

Agency goals for MTW Activity:

This activity supports the goals to increase housing choices for low-income households and to leverage additional funds for affordable housing development.

Which of the MTW statutory objectives does this MTW activity serve?

Housing choice

What are the cost implications of this MTW activity? Pick the best description of the cost implications based on what you know today.

Increased expenditures

Does the MTW activity under this waiver apply to all assisted households or only to a subset or subsets of assisted households?

The MTW activity applies to all assisted households

Does the MTW agency need a Safe Harbor Waiver to implement this MTW activity as described?

No

Table 17.c.1 - Housing Development Programs that the MTW Agency plans to commit Funds to in Fiscal Year

Name of Development and Address	MTW Role: Acquisition, Rehabilitation, New Construction?	Type of MTW Agency Financing: Gap Financing, Tax Credit Partnership, Other	Number of Affordable Units	Total Number of Units	Number of Units by Affordability - 80% of AMI	Number of Units by Affordability - 50% of AMI	Number of Units by Affordability - 30% of AMI	Number of Units by Affordability - Other
Cambridge Park	Rehabilitation	Gap Financing, Tax Credit Partnership, Other	189.00	189.00	7.00	24.00	157.00	1.00

Housing Development Programs that the MTW Agency plans to spend funds on in the Fiscal Year

Name of Development and Address	MTW Role: Acquisition, Rehabilitation, New Construction?	Type of MTW Agency Financing: Gap Financing, Tax Credit Partnership, Other	Number of Affordable Units	Total Number of Units	Number of Units by Affordability - 80% of AMI	Number of Units by Affordability - 50% of AMI	Number of Units by Affordability - 30% of AMI	Number of Units by Affordability - Other
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Table 17.c.2 - Housing Development Programs that the MTW Agency committed funds to in prior Fiscal Year

Name of Development and Address	MTW Role: Acquisition, Rehabilitation, New Construction?	Type of MTW Agency Financing: Gap Financing, Tax Credit Partnership, Other	Number of Affordable Units	Total Number of Units	Number of Units by Affordability - 80% of AMI	Number of Units by Affordability - 50% of AMI	Number of Units by Affordability - 30% of AMI	Number of Units by Affordability - Other
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Housing Development Programs that the MTW Agency spent funds on in prior Fiscal Year

Name of Development and Address	MTW Role: Acquisition, Rehabilitation, New Construction?	Type of MTW Agency Financing: Gap Financing, Tax Credit Partnership, Other	Number of Affordable Units	Total Number of Units	Number of Units by Affordability - 80% of AMI	Number of Units by Affordability - 50% of AMI	Number of Units by Affordability - 30% of AMI	Number of Units by Affordability - Other
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D.	Safe Harbor Waivers.
D.1	<p>Will the MTW agency submit request for approval of a Safe Harbor Waiver this year?</p> <p>No Safe Harbor Waivers are being requested.</p>

E.	Agency-Specific Waiver(s).
E.1	<p>Agency-Specific Waiver(s) for HUD Approval:</p> <p>The MTW demonstration program is intended to foster innovation and HUD encourages MTW agencies, in consultation with their residents and stakeholders, to be creative in their approach to solving affordable housing issues facing their local communities. For this reason, flexibilities beyond those provided for in Appendix I may be needed. Agency-Specific Waivers may be requested if an MTW agency wishes to implement additional activities, or waive a statutory and/or regulatory requirement not included in Appendix I.</p> <p>In order to pursue an Agency-Specific Waiver, an MTW agency must include an Agency-Specific Waiver request, an impact analysis, and a hardship policy (as applicable), and respond to all of the mandatory core questions as applicable.</p> <p>For each Agency-Specific Waiver(s) request, please upload supporting documentation, that includes: a) a full description of the activity, including what the agency is proposing to waive (i.e., statute, regulation, and/or Operations Notice), b) how the initiative achieves one or more of the 3 MTW statutory objectives, c) a description of which population groups and household types that will be impacted by this activity, d) any cost implications associated with the activity, e) an implementation timeline for the initiative, f) an impact analysis, g) a description of the hardship policy for the initiative, and h) a copy of all comments received at the public hearing along with the MTW agency's description of how the comments were considered, as a required attachment to the MTW Supplement.</p> <p>Will the MTW agency submit a request for approval of an Agency-Specific Waiver this year?</p> <p>No Agency-Specific Waivers are being requested.</p>
E.2	<p>Agency-Specific Waiver(s) for which HUD Approval has been Received:</p> <p>Does the MTW agency have any approved Agency-Specific Waivers?</p> <p>MTW Agency does not have approved Agency-Specific Waivers</p>

F.	Public Housing Operating Subsidy Grant Reporting.
F.1	Total Public Housing Operating subsidy amount authorized, disbursed by 9/30, remaining, and deadline for disbursement, by Federal Fiscal Year for each year the PHA is designated an MTW agency.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)	Total Operating Subsidy Authorized Amount	How Much PHA Disbursed by the 9/30 Reporting Period	Remaining Not Yet Disbursed	Deadline
2022	\$865,782	\$697,373	\$168,409	

G.	MTW Statutory Requirements.	
G.1	75% Very Low Income – Local, Non-Traditional. HUD will verify compliance with the statutory requirement that at least 75% of the households assisted by the MTW agency are very low-income for MTW public housing units and MTW HCVs through HUD systems. The MTW PHA must provide data for the actual families housed upon admission during the PHA's most recently completed Fiscal Year for its Local, Non-Traditional program households.	
	Income Level	Number of Local, Non-Traditional Households Admitted in the Fiscal Year*
	80%-50% Area Median Income	0
	49%-30% Area Median Income	0
	Below 30% Area Median Income	0
	Total Local, Non-Traditional Households	0

*Local, non-traditional income data must be provided in the MTW Supplement form until such time that it can be submitted in IMS-PIC or other HUD system.

G.2	Establishing Reasonable Rent Policy.
Has the MTW agency established a rent reform policy to encourage employment and self-sufficiency? No	
Please describe the MTW agency's plans for its future rent reform activity and the implementation timeline.	

G.3	Substantially the Same (STS) – Local, Non-Traditional.
The total number of unit months that families were housed in a local, non-traditional rental subsidy for the prior full calendar year.	0 # of unit months
The total number of unit months that families were housed in a local, non-traditional housing development program for the prior full calendar year.	0 # of unit months

Number of units developed under the local, non-traditional housing development activity that were available for occupancy during the prior full calendar year:

PROPERTY NAME/ ADDRESS	0/1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR	5 BR	6+ BR	TOTAL UNITS	POPULATION TYPE*	if 'Population Type' is Other	# of Section 504 Accessible (Mobility)**	# of Section 504 Accessible (Hearing/ Vision)	Was this Property Made Available for Initial Occupancy during the Prior Full Calendar Year?	What was the Total Amount of MTW Funds Invested into the Property?
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G.4	Comparable Mix (by Family Size) – Local, Non-Traditional.
To demonstrate compliance with the statutory requirement to continue serving a 'comparable mix" of families by family	

size to that which would have been served without MTW, the MTW agency will provide the number of families occupying local, non-traditional units by household size for the most recently completed Fiscal Year in the provided table.

Family Size:	Occupied Number of Local, Non-Traditional units by Household Size
1 Person	0
2 Person	0
3 Person	0
4 Person	0
5 Person	0
6+ Person	0
Totals	0

H.	Public Comment
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Attached you will find a copy of all of the comments received and a description of how the agency analyzed the comments, as well as any decisions made based on those comments.

No additional public hearing was held for an Agency-Specific Waiver and/or Safe Harbor waiver

I.	Evaluations.
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No known evaluations.

ATTACHMENT I
Moving to Work Certifications of Compliance

CERTIFICATIONS OF COMPLIANCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

**Certifications of Compliance with HUD and Federal Requirements and Regulations:
Board Resolution to Accompany Application to the Moving to Work Demonstration Program**

Acting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the applicant public housing agency (PHA) listed below, as its Chairperson or other authorized PHA official if there is no Board of Commissioners, I approve the submission of the application to the Moving to Work (MTW) Demonstration Program for the PHA and make the following certifications and agreements with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in connection with the submission of the application and implementation thereof:

- (1) The PHA will adhere to the MTW Operations Notice or successor notice and all requirements therein.
- (2) The PHA will adhere to HUD guidance in the MTW Operations Notice or successor notice in continuing to ensure at least 75% of families assisted are very low-income as defined in Section 3(b)(2) of the 1937 Act throughout the PHA's participation in the MTW Demonstration Program.
- (3) The PHA will adhere to HUD guidance in the MTW Operations Notice or successor notice in establishing a reasonable rent policy that is designed to encourage employment and self-sufficiency.
- (4) The PHA will adhere to HUD guidance in the MTW Operations Notice or successor notice in continuing to assist substantially the same total number of eligible low-income families as would have been served absent MTW throughout the PHA's participation in the MTW Demonstration Program.
- (5) The PHA will adhere to HUD guidance in the MTW Operations Notice or successor notice in continuing to maintain a comparable mix of families (by family size) as would have been provided had the funds not been used under the MTW Demonstration Program throughout the PHA's participation in the MTW Demonstration Program.
- (6) The PHA will adhere to HUD guidance in the MTW Operations Notice or successor notice in continuing to ensure housing assisted under the MTW Demonstration Program meets housing quality standards established or approved by the Secretary throughout the PHA's participation in the MTW Demonstration Program.
- (7) The PHA published a notice that a hearing would be held, that the application and all information relevant to the public hearing was available for public inspection for at least 30 days, that there were no less than 15 days between the public hearing and the approval of the application by the Board of Commissioners, and that the PHA conducted a public hearing to discuss the application and invited public comment.
- (8) The PHA took into consideration public and resident comments (including those of its Resident Advisory Board or Boards) before approval of the application by the Board of Commissioners or Board of Directors in order to incorporate any public comments into the application.

- (9) The PHA certifies that the Board of Commissioners has reviewed and approved the budget for the Capital Fund Program grants contained in the Capital Fund Program Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report, form HUD-50075.1 (or successor form as required by HUD).
- (10) The PHA certifies that it will carry out its application in conformity with: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 USC 2000d-2000d-4); the Fair Housing Act (42 USC 3601-19); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794); Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et seq.); all regulations implementing these authorities; other applicable Federal, State, and local civil rights laws; and that it will affirmatively further fair housing by fulfilling the requirements set out in HUD regulations found at Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, including regulations in place at the time of this certification, and any subsequently promulgated regulations governing the obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. The MTW PHA is always responsible for understanding and implementing the requirements of HUD regulations and policies and has a continuing obligation to affirmatively further fair housing in compliance with the 1968 Fair Housing Act, the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, The Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, and the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. (42 U.S.C. 3608, 5304(b)(2), 5306(d)(7)(B), 12705(b)(15), and 1437C-1(d)(16)).
- (11) The PHA will carry out its plan in conformity with HUD's Equal Access Rule at 24 CFR 5.105(a)(2) and will not make a determination of eligibility for housing based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.
- (12) The application is consistent with the applicable Comprehensive Plan (or any plan incorporating such provisions of the Comprehensive Plan) for the jurisdiction in which the PHA is located.
- (13) The application certifies that according to the appropriate State or local officials that the application is consistent with the applicable Consolidated Plan.
- (14) The PHA complies with the prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of age pursuant to the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and HUD's implementing regulations at 24 C.F.R. Part 146.
- (15) The PHA complies with the Violence Against Women Act and its implementing regulations at 24 C.F.R. Part 5, Subpart L and Parts 960 and 966.
- (16) The PHA complies with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and its implementing regulations at 24 CFR Part 41, Policies and Procedures for the Enforcement of Standards and Requirements for Accessibility by the Physically Handicapped.
- (17) The PHA complies with the requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Employment Opportunities for Low-or Very-Low Income Persons, and with its implementing regulation at 24 CFR Part 75.
- (18) The PHA complies with requirements with regard to a drug free workplace required by 24 CFR Part 24, Subpart F.
- (19) The PHA complies with requirements with regard to compliance with restrictions on lobbying required by 24 CFR Part 87, together with disclosure forms if required by this Part, and with restrictions on payments to influence Federal Transactions, in accordance with the Byrd Amendment and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24.
- (20) The PHA complies with acquisition and relocation requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24 as applicable.

RESOLUTION #1455

**TO APPROVE THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF BRISTOL MOVING
TO WORK SUPPLEMENT TO THE 2023-2024 ANNUAL AGENCY PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Housing Authority of the City of Bristol (BHA) Board of Commissioners adopted the 2023-2024 Annual Agency Plan by Resolution No. 1437 on February 21, 2023;

WHEREAS, the BHA applied for Moving to Work (MTW) Cohort Number Five: Asset Building Status and was awarded MTW status in September 2022;


WHEREAS, BHA MTW Supplement to the Annual PHA Plan is attached hereto and made a part hereof;

WHEREAS, BHA Board of Commissioners approved the BHA Moving to Work (MTW) Supplement to the 2023-2024 Annual Agency Plan during the regular meeting of March 21, 2023;

WHEREAS, the office of Housing and Urban Development requires that the MTW Supplement be approved by BHA by Resolution;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the attached MTW Supplement is approved and that the 2023-2024 Annual Agency Plan previously approved by the BHA Board of Commissioners is hereby supplemented with the MTW Supplement.

Adopted June 20, 2023



Rickey Bouffard, Chair
Board of Commissioners
The Housing Authority of the City of Bristol

Seal:



Bristol Housing Authority's MTW Hardship Policy

BHA has created a hardship policy for when a requirement or provision of certain MTW activities constitutes a financial or other hardship for an BHA household. BHA will review its hardship policy with clients during the intake and recertification processes. The resident must sign and submit consent forms for obtaining information requested by BHA necessary to consider if a resident qualifies for a hardship exemption. The agency will also consider if a client qualifies for a hardship exemption at the time of a potential termination of assistance that is due to an MTW activity. When a client requests a hardship exemption from an MTW activity included in this policy, BHA will suspend the activity for the household beginning the next month after the request until BHA has determined if the request is warranted. Hardship information will be retained by BHA for the duration of BHA's participation in the MTW demonstration program.

Activity: 3a. & 3.b. Alternative Reexamination Schedule for Households (PH & HCV)

BHA will move to a triennial reexamination schedule for some elderly and disabled households. If a household meets the following three criteria, it will be enrolled in triennial reexaminations.

- the head of household, co-head, and/or spouse is elderly or disabled,
- the only current income in the household is fixed income (e.g., social security, pension), and
- there are no minors in the household.

If a household is enrolled in triennial reexaminations and no longer meets these criteria, they will return to annual reexaminations.

At their annual lease anniversary, BHA will not apply the applicable Cost-of-Living Adjustments for fixed-income households based on the source of fixed-income, where fixed income households will also be given an opportunity to certify their medical and/or disability expenses and provide proof of changes in those amounts if applicable.

Households may continue to request interim reexaminations due to a decrease in income and/or increases in eligible expenses.

Applicable households will be able to file one interim reexaminations for decreases in income and/or increases in eligible expenses. BHA must allow at least one interim adjustment per year at the request of the household, if the household gross income has decreased 10 percent or more. BHA must conduct an interim reexamination of family income when it becomes aware that the family's adjusted income has changed by an amount that it estimates will result in an increase of ten percent or more in annual adjusted income or such other amount established by HUD through notice, except BHA may not consider any increase in the earned income of the family when estimating or calculating whether the family's adjusted income has increased, unless the family has previously received an interim reduction at their request because of any changes in income since the last examination during the certification period; and BHA may choose not to conduct

an interim reexamination in the last three months of a certification period. In other words, BHAs may not consider a family's increases in earned income for the purposes of an interim reexamination unless the family had previously undergone an interim reexamination during the year for any decrease in income. If the family has undergone an interim reexamination for a decrease in income after the completion of the last reexamination, BHA also has discretion regarding whether or not to count increases in earned income when estimating or calculating whether the family's adjusted income has increased. In determining the income for any family, BHA may make other adjustments as it considers appropriate to reflect current income, taking into consideration any redetermination of income during such prior year(s).

If a household believes they have another circumstance that qualifies as a financial hardship, they may request a hardship.

Triennial reexaminations for these households are expected to begin with reexaminations effective July 1, 2023. When triennial reexaminations begin for these current households, all newly admitted households who meet the above criteria will also be enrolled in triennial reexaminations.

This schedule will also include only reviewing the EIV at the triennial recertification rather than annually and implementing a release form that is valid for 45 months. In addition, households on a triennial recertification schedule will not utilize the Income Validation Tool (IVT) Report as this reporting requirement is not consistent with the triennial reporting of income and will create an administrative burden that does not assist in the establishment of the level of subsidy the family receives and will increase administrative burden of BHA staff. Unreported income requires no change or rent correction for triennial tiered rent households unless it occurs before their last reexamination, so the IVT Report will not provide any needed information that cannot be gathered from the EIV. BHA staff will continue to monitor the EIV at households' triennial reexaminations to ensure the proper reporting of income.

Hardship Standard

To qualify for a hardship exemption, a family must submit a request for a hardship exemption in writing. The request must explain the nature of the hardship.

Approval will be for the following reasons only:

- A qualifying household's current gross income is at or exceeds an amount that is 10 percent less than their retrospective (prior actual 12-months) income
- Increase in expenses of at least 10 percent for qualified households, including out-of-pocket medical expenses, and/or disability related expenses
- Awaiting approval for benefit income
- Such other situations and factors as determined by the agency to be appropriate, such as eviction, or termination of utilities.

Grievance Procedure

BHA will determine whether an approved hardship exists within 30 days after the request is received.

If the request does not meet BHA hardship standards outlined above, BHA will resume the MTW activity and collect any retroactive rent, if applicable, through a reasonable repayment agreement.

If the request meets the hardship standards outlined above, the agency will continue to provide an exemption from the MTW activity for 12 months or until the next triennial reexamination.

If a client requests an additional hardship following the expiration of a previous hardship (or for a hardship renewal), the request will be treated as a new hardship request and undergo a new determination based on current income and information.

If a client disagrees with a hardship determination, they will follow BHA's informal hearing process outlined in the Administrative Plan.

A family may request for second level review of denied hardship requests. The family must submit a request must be in writing within 30 days the of the PHA written notice. Hardship request may be denied for the following reasons:

1. Failure to provide verification for loss or reduction of benefit income
2. Failure to provide verification for eligibility of benefit income
3. Failure to provide verification of increased expenses
4. Family is not subject to eviction, utility shut off, or wage garnishment
5. Failure to submit verification for decrease or loss of employment
6. Failure to provide supporting documentation related to loss of income due to death in the family

Exemption Period

If BHA determines that a financial or other hardship exists, the family will receive exemption from the MTW activity as stated below. The MTW activity will resume after expiration of the exemption period.

1. 210 days for loss of benefits such as, but not limited to, Social Security (SS), SS Disability, SSI, Workman's Compensation, and other income as determined in 24 CFR 5.609(b) and (c) (4)(7)(8).
2. 180 days for temporary reduction of benefits such as, but not limited to, Social Security (SS), SS Disability, SSI, Workman's Compensation, and other income as determined in 24 CFR 5.609(b) and (c) (4)(7)(8).
3. 150 days for loss of income due to death by head, spouse, or co-head
4. 90 days for increased expenses
5. 60 days for break in approval of benefit income
6. 30 days for all other circumstances

MTW Impact Analyses Bristol Housing Authority

Activity	3.a & 3.b. Alternative Reexamination Schedule
Fiscal Year	FY 2023
Program	Public Housing (PH) & Voucher Program (HCV)
1. Impact on the agency's finances	<p>This activity is expected to reduce administrative costs and to be budget and revenue neutral in Housing Assistance Payments. By going to triennial reexaminations for elderly and disabled households with fixed-incomes, BHA estimates that over a three-year period, annual reexaminations will be reduced as follows.</p> <p>In 2022, approximately 35 percent of voucher families leased meet the definition of applicable households for triennial reexaminations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the head of household, co-head, and/or spouse is elderly or disabled, • the only current income in the household is fixed income (e.g., social security, pension), and • there are no minors in the household. <p>HUD's "Housing Choice Voucher Program Administrative Fee Study" (August 2015) found that the average time PHAs spent on annual recertifications was 3.0 hours per voucher per year for elderly households and 2.4 hours per voucher per year for non-elderly disabled households.</p> <p>Annual recertifications include preparing for and scheduling recertification, conducting interviews, verifying income and household composition, reviewing Enterprise Income Verification (EIV), and calculating total tenant payment and housing assistance payment. Based on this study, and the scope of BHA's proposed activity/waiver, we anticipate significant administrative cost efficiencies.</p> <p>Triennial reexaminations for the elderly and disabled households with fixed-incomes who qualify, where BHA will not apply Cost of Living Adjustments from applicable sources of fixed-income on their lease anniversary between triennial reexaminations will result in our agency forgoing that income in their Total Tenant Payment calculations, and there will be increased HAP expenditures as follows.</p> <p>Combining both years and averaging them together, the increased tenant rent contribution under the existing non-MTW income and rent method was \$17,064 per year for voucher-assisted households and \$48,600 per year for</p>

	<p>public housing-assisted households. It is estimated to increase HAP expenditures by the above amount per year and the other amount above in Operating Fund expenditures, when BHA does not make any COLA adjustments at the annual lease anniversary during years 2 and 3 of the triennial reexamination period.</p> <p>Households on fixed incomes through Social Security received an 8 percent Cost of Living Adjustment due to inflationary costs, and in 2021 the COLA was 1 percent.</p> <p>Because of HUD's unique HAP renewal funding inflation factor in FY 2023 which is greater than BHA's slowing growth rate in rent increases in 2022, BHA has a significant amount of HAP and HAP Reserves with which to work in 2023 that will be applied to this activity.</p>
2. Impact on the affordability of housing costs for affected families	None. Qualifying elderly and disabled will be allowed to retain more of their annual COLAs without those increased funds being taxed/counted in their Total Tenant Payment two out of the three years.
3. Impact on the agency's waitlist(s)	None
4. Impact on the agency's termination rate of families	None
5. Impact on the agency's current utilization rate in the HCV program	None
6. Impact on meeting the MTW statutory goals of cost effectiveness, self-sufficiency and/or housing choice	This activity will increase BHA's ability to meet the statutory goals of cost-effectiveness.
7. Impact on the agency's ability to meet MTW statutory requirements	None
8. Impact on the rate of hardship requests and the number granted and denied as a result of this activity	This is the initial year of implementation. The BHA expects a hardship rate up to 0% in both voucher and public housing programs.
9. Impact on protected classes (and any disparate impact)	This activity is expected to have no disparate impact on protected classes.