# MAXIMIZING RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES AND RESIDENTS

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# Introduction

The importance of stable housing

Pairing housing and social services

Lessons learned and future opportunities

# The importance of stable housing

Housing insecurity is a crisis.

Families that are in temporary housing or rent burdened or facing eviction are often operating in survival mode.

Income-based affordable housing aims to provide stable housing that can serve as a platform for enabling residents to thrive.

# Pairing public housing with social services

Recent efforts include:

- Family Self-Sufficiency Program

- Resident Opportunity and Social Service Coordinator Program

- Choice Neighborhoods

- Envision Centers

# Family Self Sufficiency Program

- Mixed success – for some families, this works as designed

  - Participants receive educational/employment related services leading to higher incomes and in turn, escrow savings that they receive upon completion of the 5-year program.

  - For others, the program is too rigid, or they don't remain in public housing long enough to complete the program and benefit fully.

# Limited Resources

- The Choice Neighborhood Initiative is extremely competitive, and few communities receive grants.

- ROSS program also has limited funding.

- Envision Centers had no funding attached and were dependent upon local resources.

# Post – COVID Needs

- The eviction moratorium and Emergency Rental Assistance Program helped many families to remain in their homes.

- Resources are needed long before a family is at risk of eviction.

- Public Housing Authorities are reporting that their residents still need support.

# Location and Communities Matter

- There are big differences in the availability of supportive programs and services.

- Large PHAs in larger cities tend to have larger staffs and better access to community resources followed by smaller cities and then smaller rural PHAs.

# Importance of Community

- Building a community of residents in Public Housing Developments can be beneficial.

- Developing partnerships with community-based organizations when available is critical.

- Getting creative.

# Continued Work

- Identifying any funding opportunities or new resources for residents.

- Emphasizing the importance of services in keeping residents housed.

- Emphasis on flexible resources that respond to community needs.