



Flexibility to innovate. Solutions that work.

Tailoring housing resources and services for low-income people in the Puget Sound region, thanks to the Moving to Work program.





What is Moving to Work?

Moving to Work (MTW) is a federal program authorized by Congress in 1996. It gives public housing authorities regulatory and funding flexibilities to respond to local needs and opportunities by connecting people with low incomes to vital housing and services.

Along with 36 other public housing authorities across the country, the King County, Seattle and Tacoma Housing Authorities have been participants in the Moving to Work program from the beginning.

A program that connects ...

PUGET SOUND'S HOUSING AUTHORITIES

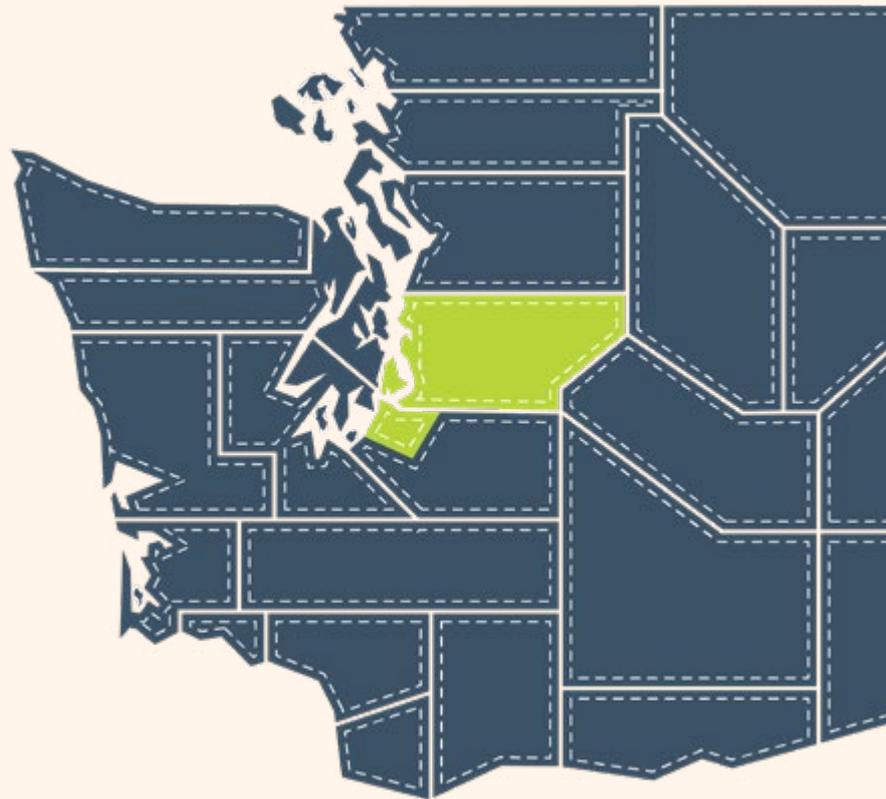
As agencies that benefit from Moving to Work, the King County, Seattle and Tacoma Housing Authorities collaborate to maintain a robust learning community, and share best practices, resources and ideas to better serve people and advance low-income housing initiatives in the Puget Sound region. Collaboration enables the agencies to collectively advocate, drive innovation and continuously improve MTW-enabled programs to better serve their communities. Puget Sound's MTW initiatives have served as models for national policy change.

PEOPLE TO THE RIGHT RESOURCES

The King County, Seattle and Tacoma Housing Authorities have decades of combined experience responding to local economies and human needs with solutions that work for the Puget Sound region. They are seen as national models of addressing local housing needs with creative thinking, innovative solutions and strong partnerships.

FUNDING AND SUCCESSFUL SOLUTIONS

For more than 25 years, MTW has led to locally responsive low-income housing and support services that have provided stability to people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, people on fixed incomes, seniors, and families working to achieve economic independence.



 **MORE THAN**
25 YEARS
OF SUCCESS

 **SUPPORTING MORE THAN**
50,000
HOUSEHOLDS ANNUALLY

What are some local examples?

People served by housing authorities in King County, Seattle and Tacoma benefit every day from the MTW program's funding and policy flexibility, which enables effective affordable housing to be paired with enhanced services.

King County Housing Authority

LOCAL RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMING

KCHA has utilized MTW to design local rental assistance programs addressing housing instability for students and families experiencing homelessness. Since 2013, the Student and Family Stability Initiative (SFSI) has operated in Highline and Tukwila School Districts, offering short-term rental subsidies alongside case management and employment counseling. Launched in 2021, KCHA's While In-School Housing Program (WISH) partners with Highline College to provide subsidies to students experiencing homelessness until they graduate. WISH and SFSI tackle immediate housing instability while fostering long-term self-sufficiency.

NEIGHBORHOOD EARLY LEARNING CONNECTORS

Leveraging MTW resources, the Neighborhood Early Learning Connectors Program works to increase the kindergarten readiness of KCHA's youngest residents. The co-designed program employs subsidized housing participants who reflect the cultural and linguistic makeup of the communities they serve. Connectors provide families with resources to raise small children, access to high-quality programs and services that strengthen relationships among neighbors.

Seattle Housing Authority

CREATING MOVES TO OPPORTUNITY

The Seattle Housing Authority leveraged its MTW flexibilities to ensure families can find and lease housing in higher opportunity neighborhoods proven to improve overall life outcomes for children. These flexibilities resulted in an increase from 15 percent to 53 percent of families with vouchers leasing in high opportunity areas. SHA's Creating Moves to Opportunity program was initially started as a study in partnership with the King County Housing Authority and academic researchers.

JOBLINK

Through MTW regulatory flexibility, SHA established JobLink to provide one-on-one coaching and critical financial support to assist SHA tenants in achieving their education and employment goals. During the first five years, SHA has served an average of 575 individuals annually, supported more than 900 job placements and delivered almost \$500,000 of short-term financial support and \$770,000 of escrow support directly to program participants.





Tacoma Housing Authority

PROPERTY-BASED SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Assisted living facilities that accept Medicaid are increasingly difficult to access. In 2019, when THA partnered with Cascade Senior Living, the local community had experienced a loss of more than 100 beds providing Medicaid assisted living services. Leveraging MTW, THA created the Local Property-Based Subsidy Program, enabling THA to subsidize 150 units across three properties.

ENHANCED SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR RESIDENTS

Through MTW funding flexibility, THA established a robust social service department that provides social emotional, economic and emergency service navigation to the households THA serves. The team is focused on serving the whole family to increase housing stability and ultimately affect positive life outcomes using the evidence-based 2Gen model.

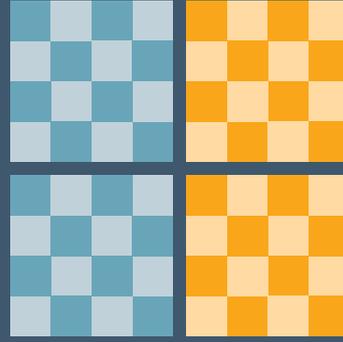
By working across sectors to form long-lasting partnerships and match local needs, housing authorities—through MTW—bring proven programs, expanded housing access and service-enriched investments to the people they serve.

Why is Moving to Work important?

The Puget Sound region continues to face a historic housing affordability crisis, contributing to troubling levels of homelessness and a lack of stable housing for low-income families. More than 16,000 people are experiencing homelessness in King County, Seattle and Tacoma.

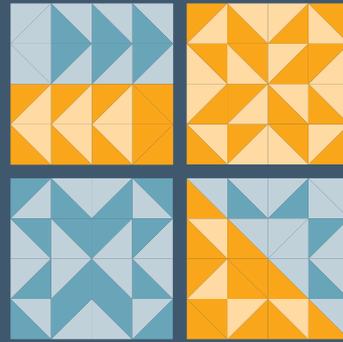
Demand for housing assistance far outstrips supply. Studies estimate that the Puget Sound region needs to build 46,000 affordable housing units now and an additional 810,000 by 2050 to keep up with population growth. In addition to affordable housing, the region must address unmet needs for people with behavioral and physical health challenges, educational access disparities and other challenges that prevent people from maintaining stable housing.

The King County, Seattle and Tacoma Housing Authorities are responding by contributing to the development and operation of subsidized housing and services that help people maintain stable housing and improve their lives.



Housing authorities receive funding from the government for two programs: **Public Housing** and **Housing Choice Vouchers**.

Other agencies must use these funds exactly as directed.



MTW agencies are empowered with the **spending and regulatory flexibility** to make investments according to local needs, rather than federal mandates.



The flexibilities of MTW allow agencies to **create local, innovative programs** and **collaborate with other organizations** who understand the needs and opportunities within their communities.

How is Moving to Work different?

Every public housing authority in the country faces unmet housing needs that are unique to their community. MTW agencies have the flexibility to tailor their efforts to their local context, weaving together programs and partnerships that more thoughtfully address their communities' needs.

Learn more about
MTW nationally:
MTWCollaborative.org



Learn more about how agencies
in the MTW program are
**changing lives in the
Puget Sound region.**

 **KING COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY**
KCHA.org

 **SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**
SeattleHousing.org

 **TACOMA HOUSING AUTHORITY**
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