



Memo

Date: July 13, 2009

To: Interested Parties

From: Erika Robbins, Money Follows the Person (HOME Choice) Project Director

Re: Ohioans who are elderly or have disabilities need your help to access the upcoming housing voucher opportunities for Money Follows the Person

Recently the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requested recommendations around new Housing Choice vouchers that will be released sometime this fall. Included in this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) were vouchers for people under the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration Project. We at ODJFS are working on a letter with our comments on the proposed Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and have in fact requested more be given to help us transition persons out of in-patient settings. The draft letter is attached and is awaiting signature - the deadline for comments to HUD is July 13, 2009.

WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE!

We want to begin a **coordinated effort** to reach out to the Public Housing Authorities (PHA) in Ohio. We need your assistance, though. We can advocate better if we have a little more information at the State level. We would like the names, and the county of residence, for ALL HOME Choice participants with whom you are currently working, or plan to work with soon, who are unable to leave the in-patient setting (e.g., nursing facility, ICFMR facility, hospital) due to housing issues. We plan to compile this data and present it to the PHA when we formally request that they apply for the NOFA once released in the fall. Gathering this detailed information will help us to prove the need for vouchers.

I have attached an Excel spreadsheet for you to use to provide us the names and counties of HOME Choice participants facing a housing barrier. **Please submit this information to the attention of Brock Robertson at Brock.Robertson@jfs.ohio.gov by July 30.** Not providing this information makes it difficult to even suggest to the PHAs that there is a need for housing for persons in inpatient facilities within your community. We plan to approach only those PHAs who have a need as established by you. If you are unable to

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submit the names of individuals who need a voucher, we will not approach the PHA in your area of the State. For example, if the Columbus area has an identified need for 20 vouchers (meaning we have 20 actual people in mind), we will formally ask the PHA to seek at least 20 vouchers through the upcoming NOFA and we will use this opportunity to share with the PHA our intent to provide MFP supports (e.g., your role as a transition coordinator, the available community transition funds, and ODJFS state support) creating a true partnership in managing the housing and service needs of participants - it is a win win for all of us!

We cannot accomplish this work without your help because do not have the data at the state level that indicates who has a housing barrier. We have a great opportunity and we need to take advantage of it! ODJFS is willing to provide the support to you to build proactive and positive relationships with the PHAs. The NOFA provides a great opportunity to get these partnerships started. We have already built two such partnerships with Cuyahoga and soon Akron - we congratulate and send our thanks to the PHAs and transition coordinators in these two areas for the work necessary to build these two partnerships - we would like to see more partnerships across the State and we want to work with you to build them!

Thank you for your hard work. Please contact us if you have any questions at Erika.Robbins@jfs.ohio.gov or Brock.Robertson@jfs.ohio.gov.