Can moving ‘up’ help children in the long run?

Chester gets $3.5M grant to assess ‘mobility’ programs

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The Chester Housing Authority is receiving $3.5 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to study whether moving children’s ZIP codes can help move them into neighborhoods with higher poverty rates and great jobs and education opportunities.

It’s part of an effort by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to better help children, who are ZIP code agnostic, get into better neighborhoods.

The Chester Housing Authority is one of nine agencies in the country chosen to receive this funding. The city is slated to get $3.5 million from the program, in addition to the $3.5 million, which will put to help people fill out lease applications, move into their new homes, and other logistical support for families. The Chester Housing Authority also expects to receive 19 vouchers from the program. The two housing authorities are still working out the details of how to distribute the vouchers, which will help cover rent for families with at least one child under 13. These vouchers can be used outside their city or county. These agencies were chosen, in part, due to their experience successfully managing tenant vouchers. Often, voucher recipients have had difficulty finding landlords willing to take their subsides, and they’re forced to live in neighborhoods with concentrated poverty and limited education opportunities. These voucher recipients are the only option, alone provides a discontinue inventory in the rental market and increase housing search, said Chris- ter Housing Authority Direc- tor Steven Fisher. The housing authority will have a certain amount of time to work with the families, and will then allow families to live in neighborhoods with limited distance that they can actually go to search for housing that has a lack of funds, lack of transportation.”

Chester Housing Authority’s 3.5M grant will allow them to study if moving children up ZIP codes will lead to neighborhoods with higher poverty rates.

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