

HUD Section 8 Affects

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Section 8 housing allows for low-income families to “choose privately owned rental housing” where public housing authority pays 30% to 100% of the HUD’s fair market rent value to a landlord (HUD, 2004). The Moving to Opportunity (MTO) program has a purpose of decentralizing poverty and to reduce the income segregation. MTO has not shown statistically significant intended affects (Clark, 2008). Yet, the case has revealed unintended positive consequences where some families are taking advantage of resources that presented themselves to the families (e.g. school and debt reduction) (Martin, 2008).

The theory behind the MTO and Section 8 housing reflects the idea that high-poverty households will fare better outside of poverty areas, and as well that high concentrated poverty areas tend to encourage “dysfunctional behavior” (Clark, 2008, 516; Galster and Zobel, as cited by Clark, 2008), but there is high resistance by landlord’s to Section 8 housing assistance (Appel, 2008; Clark, 2008). While Appel (2008) argues that Section 8 is rejected due for discriminatory reasons, she reveals cases where landlords have housing units in various states of disrepair, which can jeopardize acceptance of public assistance as noted by HUD (2004). Thus, an unintended impact may be the repair of housing units and the favorable market values that surround better condition housing units.

We need to find out the impact of the vouchers upon families, and since the families are under public assistance, we can require surveys that examine lifestyle changes. As a defined focus group here , we can used a mixed-method approach, as outlined by Frechtling (1997), gather crucial information via questionnaires to quantify effects and qualify program affects using interviews with the group. The program theory is being questioned where tax credits and subsidies affect poverty distributions, landlord assistance and racial divides (Clark, 2008;

Usowski & Hollar, 2008; Appel, 2008). The questions can be isolated for specific determinants and affects of the program as well as staged surveys will help to determine a series trend observation. We need to understand how the money is benefiting or if the money should be allocated for other uses that encourage poverty reduction goals.

A question that is begged is how social interactions or fraternization are affected by voucher programs. If the idea is to distribute people from the projects into other neighborhoods, we are taking people out of known networks and supplanting them into new ones. We should understand the social interactions between the movers and the people in the newer neighborhoods that impact the affects of the move.

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