

The Future of Public Housing

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Goals

- Provide current public housing tenants with more choice concerning their housing
- Provide better housing to current tenants who remain in public housing
- Promote economic integration in public housing

Key Evidence

- It costs much more to provide equally good housing in public housing than with housing vouchers

Proposed Reforms

- Each housing authority receives the same federal funds as it would have gotten under the current system
- Each housing authority must offer each public housing tenant the option of a portable housing voucher or staying in its current unit on the previous terms unless the authority sells the project

Proposed Reforms

- Payment standards in the proposed voucher program are set so that the average voucher subsidy offered is equal to housing authority's per-unit federal subsidy for public housing
- Housing authorities would be allowed to sell any of their projects to the highest bidder

Proposed Reforms

- When a project is sold, tenants would be offered the option of a vacant unit in another public housing project or a portable voucher
- When public housing unit is vacated by a family that accepts a voucher, the housing authority offers the next family on the waiting list the option of occupying the unit or a portable housing voucher

Proposed Reforms

- If the family takes the voucher, the housing authority rents the vacated unit for the highest rent that the market would bear
- When families with the new vouchers stop receiving housing assistance, the next family on the public housing waiting list is offered a voucher

Proposed Reforms

- Explore these proposals with controlled experiments before launching the reforms nationwide
