

**Archived:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024 9:34:36 AM

**From:**

**Sent:** Thursday, March 7, 2024 1:06:11 PM

**To:** [Sweeney, Lily](#)

**Subject:** RE: Comments RE: 60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Form 50900: Elements for the Annual Moving To Work Plan and Annual Moving To Work Report; OMB Control No.: 2577-0216 (Docket No. FR-7076-N-18)

**Importance:** Normal

**Sensitivity:** None

---

Thank you for your comments and general support for removing the standard metrics and providing narrative options to MTW PHAs. We will continue to work with the MTW Collaborative in determining alternative outcome measures that can be meaningful while minimizing burden. Please see the responses below to some specific comments, and please look out for the 30 day PRA Notice in the coming weeks which will have some additional updates, some based on public comments we received:

- Comment: MTW Plan Section II(A)(i) Planned new public housing units: HUD requires MTW PHAs to submit a table containing all new public housing units anticipated in the coming fiscal year in each MTW Plan, including a breakdown by unit size. The bedroom size categories provided are different in the MTW Plan than in other reporting requirements to HUD; the Form 50900 currently combines the count of 0 and 1 bedroom units. The bedroom size categories should be updated to match the data fields in the PIH Information Center (PIC) as follows: 0 bedroom, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 3 bedrooms, 4 bedrooms, 5+ bedrooms.

**Response: “Thank you for the comment. A separate 0 bedroom column has been added in MTW Plan Section II(A)(i) Planned new public housing units in the Annual MTW Plan, and the bedroom size categories now match data fields in PIC”.**

- Comment: MTW Plan Section II(A)(vi) General description of all planned capital expenditures during the plan year / MTW Report Section II(A)(iv) General description of all actual capital expenditures during the plan year: HUD has added language to the instructions of this section as well, specifically to “[i]nclude details regarding any expenditures to make units or developments UFAS/504/ADA compliant.” As with the previous section on planned changes to housing stock, the 50900 is not the mechanism through which HUD should be confirming SHA’s compliance with accessibility requirement”.

**Response: “Thank you for the comment. After reviewing this comment and discussing it internally, this added language will be removed in the updated Form 50900”.**

- Comment: MTW Plan Section II(B)(i) Planned number of households served / MTW Report Section II(B)(i) Actual number of households served: The Form 50900 requires the MTW PHAs to report on households served by totaling the number of unit months and dividing that number by twelve. Calculating households served by this method is misleading and often undercounts the number of households truly served by each PHA annually. This is particularly true for programs such as short-term rental assistance programs, rapid rehousing and those designed to end homelessness, which often intentionally serve more than one unique household per “unit” per year. We encourage HUD to update this section to reflect unit months per HUD’s definition in addition to households served per the PHA’s calculation, such as unique households served.

**Response: “Thank you for the comment. In MTW Plan Section II(B)(i) Planned number of households served in both the Annual MTW Plan and Annual MTW Report, an optional description table will be added to track unique households served”.**

- Comment: MTW Plan Section III(D)(ii) Hardship case criteria: The instructions for this section state that “[a]ny MTW activity that...alters the rent calculation” requires a hardship policy, and that all hardship policies must define

“the circumstances under which households may be exempted or provided temporary relief from the policy.” We believe that any rent reform activities which benefit the household (e.g., reduce the amount of rent owed or tenant portion of rent) should be exempted from this requirement.

In addition, this section requires that a copy of the hardship policy associated with any proposed new rent reform/term limit activity be included in an appendix. HUD also indicates that this is to be used for the express purpose of the public review/comment process and will not be used in HUD’s review of the activity itself. We do not think this is a necessary or appropriate requirement. There are existing regulations as well as local accountability standards that housing authorities follow for transparency and when engaging with residents and the community when proposing to adopt or amend policies. It is not HUD’s place to dictate the details of these processes. For these reasons, we think that this requirement is inappropriate and should also be removed.

**Response: “Thank you for the comment. MTW flexibilities that result in a change to the amount a household must pay towards their housing assistance and/or limit the amount of time that a household is able to receive housing assistance have a large impact on those households. These MTW flexibilities are proposed by the PHA and approved by HUD through the MTW Plan. It is therefore necessary and appropriate that the PHA provide details on hardship criteria for these impactful activities as a part of the MTW Plan approval process”.**

- Comment: MTW Plan Section IV(A)(v) Planned significant changes / MTW Report Section IV(A)(v) Actual significant changes: This version of the 50900 still requires PHAs to re-propose activities if “significant changes” are anticipated in the Plan year. This concept of re-proposal is antithetical to the very purpose of MTW. Attachment C of the Standard Agreement states “The purpose of the Statement of Authorizations is to delegate to the Agency the authority to pursue locally driven policies, procedures and programs...” It is not HUD’s role to approve our specific policies but to authorize use of MTW flexibilities. SHA and our MTW peers have rightfully been objecting for years to HUD’s excessively broad criteria for what constitutes a significant change. A significant change is loosely defined in the proposed 50900, in part, as a change which “fundamentally changes the nature and scope of an activity to the extent that there is the potential for a different impact on residents.” “Different impact” is not a reasonable threshold for “fundamentally changing the nature and scope of an activity” or of a “significant change.” Similarly, a PHA could even be making a change that is to residents’ benefit and this threshold would still require a re-proposal.

Additionally, HUD’s only criteria to be able to reject an MTW activity is if it is not waivable under Attachments C and D. HUD’s other standard for a “significant changes to activities” is if “an additional MTW authorization is needed.” If HUD’s only ability to reject an activity is that the scope or nature of the activity is not waivable under the Standard Agreement, then there is no reason to re-propose an activity which is already allowable. Surely there is another method for HUD to consider the addition of an MTW authorization without having to re-propose the entire activity. We once again strongly encourage HUD to remove/revise this section to be consistent with the purpose of MTW.

**Response: “Thank you for the comment. MTW activities must be re-proposed when the nature of the activity has changed such that an additional MTW authorization is needed or when an MTW PHA fundamentally changes the nature and scope of an activity to the extent that there is the potential for a different impact on residents. Making such significant changes is akin to the proposal of a new activity, which is why the re-proposal is required”.**

- Comment: MTW Report Section IV(A)(ii) Description/impact/update: The instructions in the 50900 require that MTW PHAs report “the number and results of any hardship requests” in the MTW Report for any rent reform/term limit activities. This information is already provided to HUD via alternative means annually. Beyond being duplicative, the MTW Report is not an appropriate location to provide this type of compliance information and the requirement should be removed.

**Response: “Thank you for the comment. MTW flexibilities that result in a change to the amount a household must pay towards their housing assistance and/or limit the amount of time that a household**

is able to receive housing assistance have a large impact on those households. These MTW flexibilities are approved through the MTW Plan and then followed annually through the MTW Report. Information on the number and result of hardship requests is important in assessing the impact of these MTW flexibilities. It is therefore necessary and appropriate that the PHA provide details on the number and results of hardship requests as a part of the MTW Report”.

---

**From:** Sweeney, Lily <[Lily.Sweeney@seattlehousing.org](mailto:Lily.Sweeney@seattlehousing.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 8:23 PM

**To:** Paperwork Reduction Act Office <[PaperworkReductionActOffice@hud.gov](mailto:PaperworkReductionActOffice@hud.gov)>

**Subject:** <External Message> Comments RE: 60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Form 50900: Elements for the Annual Moving To Work Plan and Annual Moving To Work Report; OMB Control No.: 2577-0216 (Docket No. FR-7076-N-18)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you have concerns about the content of the email, please send it to [phishing@hud.gov](mailto:phishing@hud.gov) or click the Report Phishing Button on the Outlook ribbon or Phishing option within OWA.

Please see attached Seattle Housing Authority's comments RE: 60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Form 50900: Elements for the Annual Moving To Work Plan and Annual Moving To Work Report; OMB Control No.: 2577-0216 (Docket No. FR-7076-N-18).

Thank you,

**Lily Sweeney**

Strategic Advisor

**Seattle Housing Authority**

**206.239.1528 (office)**

[lily.sweeney@seattlehousing.org](mailto:lily.sweeney@seattlehousing.org)

[seattlehousing.org](http://seattlehousing.org)

**Black History IS American History**