



City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
April 5, 2022

TOPIC: Extension of Memorandum of Agreement for Inter-Jurisdictional Mobility

AGENDA TITLE:

Extension of Memorandum of Agreement for Inter-Jurisdictional Mobility with the Orange County Housing Authority, Anaheim Housing Authority, and Garden Grove Housing Authority

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Authorize the Executive Director of the Housing Authority to execute an extension of the Memorandum of Agreement for Inter-Jurisdictional Mobility with the Orange County Housing Authority, Anaheim Housing Authority, and Garden Grove Housing Authority effective May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2027, subject to non-substantive changes approved by the Executive Director and the Housing Authority General Counsel.

DISCUSSION

On June 6, 2017, the Santa Ana Housing Authority approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Inter-Jurisdictional Mobility with the Orange County Housing Authority, Anaheim Housing Authority and Garden Grove Housing Authority. On May 4, 2021, the Housing Authority approved a First Amendment to the MOA. This extension of the MOA combines the First Amendment and the original MOA. The only substantive revision is to extend the MOA by five years, from May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2027.

For background, under the federal regulations for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, a family that has been issued a voucher by the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Ana (SAHA) has the right to use their voucher to lease a unit anywhere in the United States as long as the unit is located within the jurisdiction of a Public Housing Authority (PHA) administering a Housing Choice Voucher Program. The process by which a family obtains a voucher from one PHA and uses it to lease a unit in the jurisdiction of another PHA is known as "portability". Approximately 660 families are exercising their right to portability and reside outside of SAHA's jurisdiction. Their rental assistance is administered by the Garden Grove Housing Authority and Orange County Housing Authority, who bill SAHA each month for their vouchers. Under the federal regulations for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, SAHA does not have the authority to deny a family their right to portability. Specifically, SAHA does not have the right to deny a family to move out of our jurisdiction with their voucher or to ask another housing authority to absorb those families into their programs.

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To maintain an efficient level of services for families who are moving between our housing authorities in Orange County, staff is seeking approval to extend the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) currently in place with the Orange County Housing Authority (OCHA) and Anaheim Housing Authority (AHA). This MOA is intended to simplify, facilitate, and improve inter-jurisdictional administration of the Housing Choice Voucher Program in Orange County by eliminating often cumbersome procedures that would otherwise be necessary under portability requirements. Without this MOA, when a family requests to exercise their right to port-out to OCHA or AHA's jurisdiction, the process would take an additional 30-45 calendar days because the receiving PHA must collect new documentation and issue a new voucher to the family. Under this MOA, when a family exercises their right to port-out, SAHA only needs to request an inspection of the assisted-unit requested by the family from the PHA who has jurisdiction over the geographic location of the unit. Meanwhile, the family's housing assistance continues to be administered by SAHA. As its primary purpose, the MOA reduces the time it takes for families to move between housing authority jurisdictions in Orange County and allows SAHA, OCHA, and AHA to more efficiently administer our housing assistance.

It is important to note that the extension of the agreement being recommended is officially between OCHA, AHA, SAHA and GGHA. However, GGHA is not willing to allow mobility between Santa Ana and Garden Grove. The MOA outlines the definitions and terms of the agreement. The MOA is contingent on approval by the Anaheim Housing Authority and Garden Grove Housing Authority.

FISCAL IMPACT

The MOA does not stipulate an aggregate amount not to exceed among the parties involved. The agreement only specifies the flat fees to be paid for inspections, re-inspections, and a maximum for the file sharing and storage system. The Housing Authority estimates the expenditures per this MOA may range from \$35,000 to \$50,000 annually. Funds will be allocated and budgeted in the Housing Authority's account nos. (14018760-various and 13918780-various) as necessary per fiscal year.

EXHIBIT(S)

1. Memorandum of Agreement for Inter-Jurisdictional Mobility

Submitted By: Steven Mendoza, Assistant City Manager

Approved By: Kristine Ridge, City Manager