Work & Dignity Coalition

October 2026



The Work & Dignity Coalition

- Announced in February by Secretary Turner and Assistant Secretary Ben Hobbs
- A voluntary coalition uniting **PHAs, owners, Tribes, states, non-profits, and faith-based organizations** behind the principles of work, opportunity, and self-sufficiency
- Participation reflects a shared commitment to collaboration and learning
- Members signal support by signing certificate with the following statement: "***as a member of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Work and Dignity Coalition and affirms its support for advancing the principles of work, opportunity, and self-sufficiency for assisted households.***"

Why Work and Dignity Matters

- Only **1 in 4 eligible families** currently receive HUD assistance; many waitlists are years long or closed
- Nearly **50% of non-elderly, non-disabled HUD-assisted households reported zero earnings in 2024**
- ~90% of able-bodied voucher recipients stay on assistance **more than five years**; half stay more than fifteen
- HUD estimates **19,000–79,000 families** transition out in the first year, opening space for new families
- Projected **$125–$501 million in increased tenant income**, averaging **~$16,000 more in after-rent income** per household
- Supports resident well-being —long-term unemployment is linked to declining well-being and life expectancy



What is the Minnesota Work & Dignity Coalition?

- The Coalition promotes pathways to independence, upward mobility, and self sufficiency for **working age adult** residents receiving HUD housing assistance
    - Does not involve elderly, disabled, or single parent households with children 5 and under

- The Coalition shares a commitment to:
    - Promoting work
    - Encouraging resident accountability
    - **Supportive services**
    - Developing and strengthening local partnerships
    - Sharing best practices

- **PHAs who join can have an impact and influence** (It's your seat at the table)



What is the Minnesota Work & Dignity Coalition?

- **The Work & Dignity Coalition is not an endorsement for the HUD Proposed Rule:** Establishing Flexibility for Implementation of Work Requirement and Term Limits

- The proposed rule is **OPTIONAL**



Pathways to Independence

- Things for PHAs to consider:
  - Capacity: we understand PHAs have different resources and capabilities
    - Work within your resources
  - Programs currently in place (Public/Housing – ROSS, Section 8 – FSS, & Jobs Plus)
  - Current work preferences/requirements
  - Community economic status and employer opportunities
  - Education, training and service partner access and proximity
  - Transportation
  - Current partnerships
  - Local interest and needs



Benefits to Individuals & Families

- Greater access to services
- Skill development through education and training
- Increased earning potential
- Economic opportunity and mobility
- Reduce generational poverty
- Team of professionals and organizations committed to your and your family's success
- Potential homeowner opportunity

- **Goal is to improve the lives of the people we serve**

Benefits for PHAs

- Local flexibilities – PHAs design the program
- PHAs determine resident goals and incentives
- Opportunities to access funding and develop or strengthen partnerships:
  - Departments of Labor & Education
  - State Department of Work Force Development
  - Local and county government services
  - Community colleges & trade schools
  - Internships & Apprenticeships (internal and external)
  - Stronger coordination between housing, workforce, education and other resident needed services
  - United Way
  - Philanthropy & Faith Based Organizations
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - Opportunity for increased HUD self sufficiency funding
- **Increased revenue and voucher utilization; get people off waiting lists**



Implementation Strategy

- Identify what residents need to be successful
- Set clear and realistic resident goals
- Determine how you will track and communicate resident outcomes
- Work with your HUD Field Office and identify potential partnerships
  - Federal
  - State
  - Local
- Build and strengthen existing relationships
- Explore any neighboring PHA partnering opportunities
- Collaborate and share best practices

Region V Results

Total coalition members to date in Region V…105+ and counting!

More than 350 Nationwide