

# CHA'S ECONOMIC MOBILITY PROGRAMS: OVERVIEW

The Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) uses the progressive regulatory reform offered by Moving To Work (MTW) to focus on increasing opportunities and incentives for low-income residents to pursue and meet their individual goals. CHA is working with partner organizations to provide support and services across a wide range of the families and individuals it serves.

*Italicized numbers in grey* denote programs when operating at full capacity.

EARLY CHILDHOOD			YOUTH			ADULT	
Pre- and Postnatal	Pre-School	Elementary School	Upper School	High School	Post-Secondary	All Adults	Aging in Place
Baby U <i>40 parents</i>			Work Force – College Savings Accounts <i>200 youths</i>			Gateways – English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) <i>150 adults</i>	
	Baby U Alumni Association <i>170 parents and growing</i>			This Way Ahead <i>100 youths</i>		Community Computer Centers <i>200+ people</i>	Elder Service Coordinators <i>5.5 full-time coordinators</i> <i>1,035* elderly households</i>
	Parents ROCK / Pathways <i>12 families</i>			Makerspace/The Possible Project <i>TBD</i>		Supporting Opportunity, Achieving Results (SOAR) <i>35 adults</i>	PACE Elder Service Plan <i>70 elderly households</i>
		DREAM Mentoring <i>10 youths academic yr</i> <i>30 youths summer prgm</i>				Career Family Opportunity (CFO) <i>40 families</i>	Supportive Living Program at Manning Apartments <i>150+ elderly households</i>
						Family Stability and Savings (FSS +) <i>200+ HCV families</i>	
						PATHWAYS TO PERMANENT HOUSING Heading Home <i>45 families</i> Transition House <i>2 families</i>	

\*Includes all non-PACE residents in elderly CHA public housing served by a coordinator.



# COMPASS FINANCIAL STABILITY AND SAVINGS (FSS+) PROGRAM

Provided by Compass Working Capital, in partnership with Cambridge Housing Authority  
(results as of January 2014)

Leading financial security indicators emerging from the Compass FSS+ program in Cambridge are promising. Participants are increasing their income, rebuilding their credit, establishing and maintaining positive financial practices, saving toward their goals, and building a strong financial future for themselves and their families. Preliminary data, including descriptive, baseline statistics about participants enrolled between November 1, 2012 and January 1, 2014, is summarized below. Outcome data reported below is based on participant gains after six months in the program.

## Financial Education Workshops (prerequisite for FSS+ enrollment)

- 133 participants enrolled in financial education workshops.
- 93% of participants completed the financial education workshops.

## FSS+ Program Enrollment

- 100 participants enrolled in FSS+.
- 83% of participants who completed financial education workshops chose to enroll in FSS+.
- 96% participant retention to date.

## Credit (at six months)

- 67% of participants increased their credit score.
- Average six-month increase in credit score: +40 points.

## Debt (at six months)

- 53% of participants decreased or maintained zero debt.
- Average six-month decrease in debt: \$4,288.

## Earned Income (at six months)

- 54% of participants increased their earned income, with an average increase of \$8,766/year.

## FSS+ Savings Account (at six months)

- 29% of participants began to save in their FSS+ savings account.
- Average savings balance at six months: \$213.

## Descriptive Statistics – Baseline Data for Enrolled Participants

**Household composition:** 47% are single-headed households with children; average household size of 3.

**Ethnicity/race:** 16% self-identify as Hispanic. Of Non-Hispanic participants, 61% self-identify as African-American, 16% as Caucasian, 1% as Asian, 5% as Multi-race.

**Education:** 94% have at least a high school diploma. 39% have an Associate's degree or higher.

**Employment status:** 44% are employed full-time and 32% are employed part-time.

**Average earned income:** \$24,534/year.

**Tenure in Section 8:** 70% have been in Section 8 five years or more.

*The Institute on Assets and Social Policy (IASP) at Brandeis University will release a full report on the Compass FSS+ program in January 2014.*

