

Quick Stats-Expanded Program

Program	Agency	Program/Policy Start Date	Number Served Annually	Annual Budget
Jefferson Houses (East Harlem)	CEO, HRA, NYCHA, CUNY	October 2009	648	\$1,030,000
Betances, Moore, and 152 nd St. & Courtlandt Houses (South Bronx)	CEO, Mayor's Fund, NYCHA, OFE, BronxWorks	September 2011	600	\$1,126,000
YMI funds up to seven new sites	CEO, HRA, NYCHA	Winter 2013	3,700	\$8,170,694

Jobs-Plus
Problem Statement

Across the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) 334 public housing communities, 56 percent of all working-age residents do not report income from employment and 84 percent of NYCHA households earn below New York City's average median income.ⁱ These New Yorkers to varying degrees have been disconnected from labor markets, professional networks, and local and regional economic development. Among those residents who have been able to connect to labor markets, many depend on low-wage employment and struggle to acquire the skills and pursue the continued learning that has become essential for job security, career advancement, and income growth in today's ever-changing economy.

Research and Evidence

From 1998 to 2003, the renowned social research organization MDRC, in partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), conducted a large-scale demonstration project in six cities across the United States (Baltimore, Chattanooga, Dayton, Los Angeles, St. Paul, and Seattle) called Jobs-Plus. The demonstration included a random assignment design of whole public housing buildings. In other words, some buildings (and all of their residents) in each city received the Jobs-Plus services while others, serving as a comparison group, did not. Comparing employment and earnings indicators from residents in treatment and comparison buildings provided information regarding the impact of the program.

Results show a significant improvement in earnings and employment for residents that participated in Jobs-Plus. When implemented with fidelity to the design, Jobs-Plus increased public housing residents' income by over \$1,100 per year on top of the income they would have earned without the program.ⁱⁱ Participants that *ever worked* during the program follow-up period increased their income by almost \$1,500 per year. Moreover, data reflects positive effects across diverse sub-groups (e.g. TANF recipients). Overall, Jobs-Plus helped some participants to get jobs and others to maintain and upgrade their jobs.ⁱⁱⁱ

Program Description	<p>The Center for Economic Opportunity has led the New York City pilot, replication, and expansion of Jobs-Plus, an evidence-based employment program targeting to public housing residents.</p> <p>The primary objective of Jobs-Plus is to transform public housing developments into communities that help its residents enter, sustain, and advance in work. A distinctive feature of the Jobs-Plus model is its goal to operate at “saturation” levels, meaning that services and work incentives are targeted to all working-age residents in the development, rather than focusing on a subset of eligible individuals.</p> <p>The City of New York established its pilot Jobs-Plus site in East Harlem in 2009 and launched a second site in the South Bronx in September 2011 as part of the Social Innovation Fund. In 2012 Jobs-Plus will be expanded to up to seven new locations as part of the Young Men’s Initiative because the program has been successful at placing young people in jobs.^{iv}</p> <p>Jobs-Plus is open to all residents of a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) development or cluster of developments and uses a three-part strategy: on-site access to employment-related services, rent-based work incentives that allow residents to keep more of their earnings, and activities that promote neighbor-to-neighbor support for work.</p>
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Implementation Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRA released RFP in Spring 2012. • Services expected to begin Winter 2013
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Target Population	Working-age residents in target public housing development or cluster of developments.
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Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased earnings and employment among NYCHA residents of participating NYCHA developments; • Additional employment-related outcomes such as vocational training, education milestones, and receipt of work-related benefits.
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ⁱ Per the American Community Survey from the Census, the median household income in New York City was \$50,403 or \$4,200 per month in 2008.

ⁱⁱ Riccio, James. Sustained Earnings Gains for residents in a Public Housing Jobs Program: Policy Brief. MDRC. January 2010.

ⁱⁱⁱ See: Bloom, Howard S., James A. Riccio, Nandita Verma, and Johanna Walter. Promoting Work in Public Housing: The Effectiveness of Jobs-Plus Final Report. New York: MDRC, 2005.

^{iv} Of the 240 Jobs-Plus participants placed in jobs by Jefferson Houses as of July 2011, 52% were under 25.