

Increasing Housing Choice Voucher Utilization

With an Update on the Funding
Outlook for 2017

Webinar, April 6, 2016



Agenda

- Welcome and introductions (*Barbara Sard*)
- Housing Choice Voucher funding outlook for 2017 (*Doug Rice*)
- Voucher utilization trends — PHAs could use available funds to assist tens of thousands of additional families this year (*Doug Rice*)
- A dialogue with Amy Ginger, HUD Director of Housing Choice Voucher Programs, on how to improve voucher utilization (*Barbara Sard*)
- Q&A

Housing Choice Voucher Funding Outlook

HUD 2017 Budget Tight, But Section 8 Renewals Are High Priority

- For 2016, PHAs received (nearly) full renewal funding at 2015 leasing/costs plus a nominal inflation adjustment
- For 2017, HUD budget will be tight, due to flat Budget Control Act non-defense spending cap, but projected FHA receipt increase will help
- Excluding 2013 (sequestration), Congress has provided full, or close to full, HCV renewal funding *every year for the past 10 years*

President Obama's HCV Budget Request

(Figures in millions)

	2015	2016	Obama 2017*	Senate 2017
Renewals	\$17,486	\$17,681	\$18,447	\$18,355
Admin fees	\$1,530	\$1,650	\$2,077	\$1,769
Mainstreams	\$83	\$107	\$110	\$110
Homeless families	-	-	\$88	-
VASH	\$75	\$60	\$7	\$57
FUP	-	-	-	\$20
Mobility demo	-	-	\$15	\$14
TOTAL*	\$19,304	\$19,629	\$20,854	\$20,432

* Total includes amounts not appearing above. Obama budget also includes \$11 billion in mandatory funding for an initiative to end homelessness among families with children by 2020. This request includes \$8.8 billion for new housing vouchers.

Congressional Appropriations Timeline

- House/Senate appropriations committees will “mark up” THUD bills sometime between mid-April and June. THUD bills may or may not see floor action before Congress adjourns in mid-July.
- Congress will likely approve a “continuing resolution” in September, and return after November elections to finalize 2017 budget.
- Congress will review leasing/cost data in the fall before setting final HCV funding for 2017.
- Ignore the political noise between now and November — focus on using available resources to maximize the number of families assisted

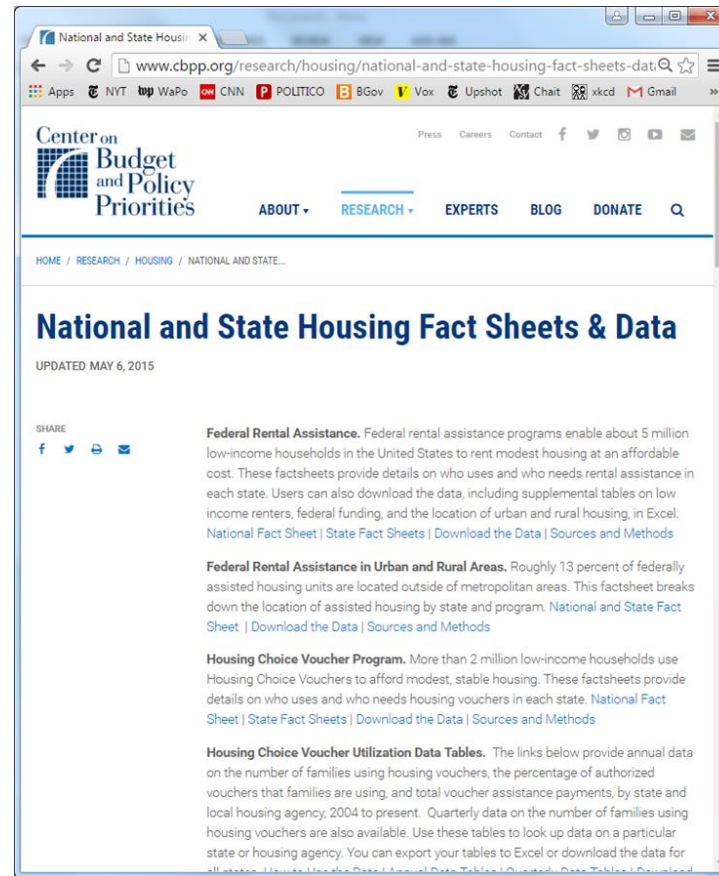
Review of Voucher Utilization Trends

HCV Utilization: Indicators

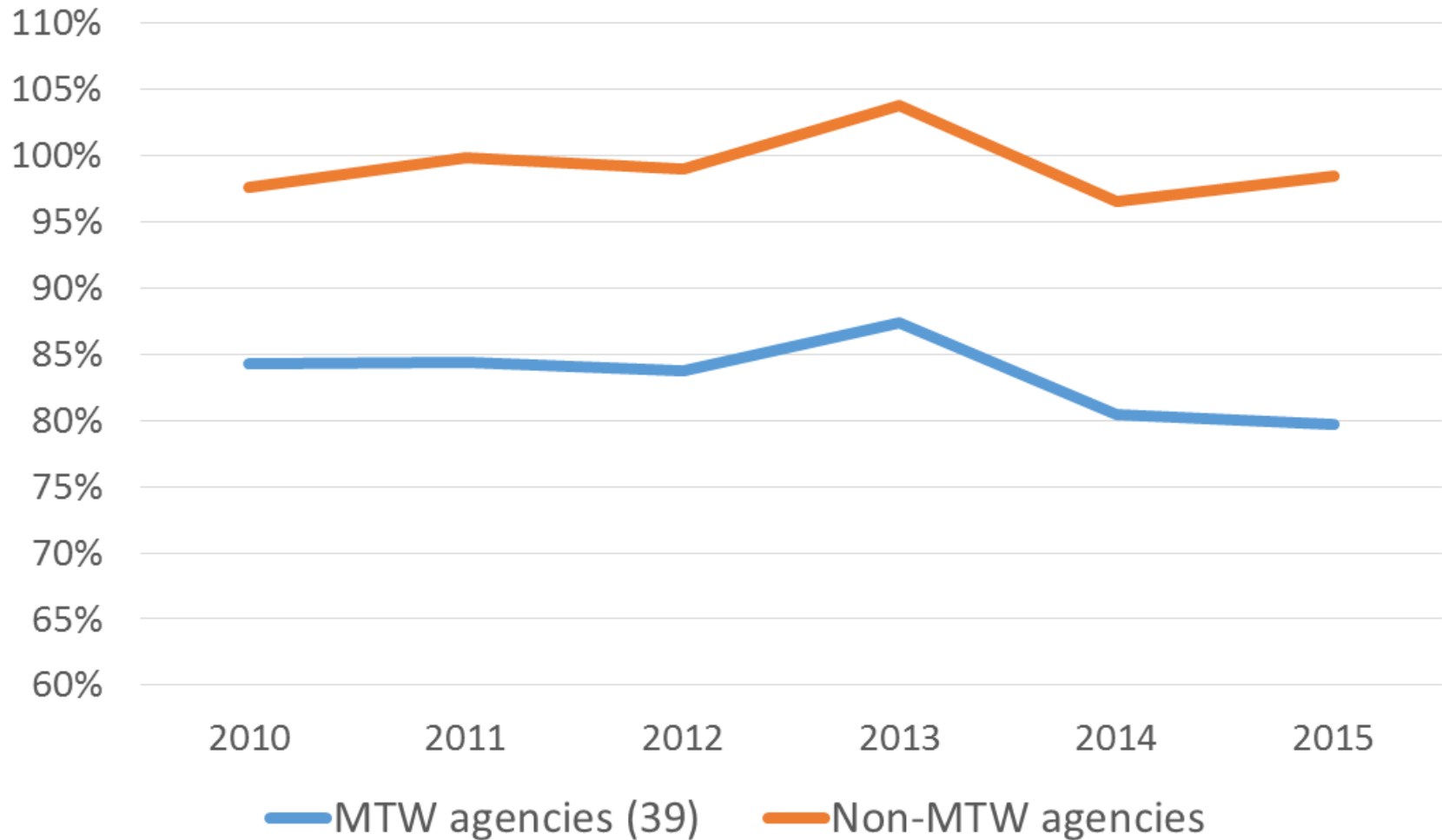
- Leasing: Is a PHA serving more or fewer families than it has in recent years?
 - Significant declines warrant investigation; may reflect funding shortfalls, an increase in subsidy costs, or ineffective program management
- Unit utilization: What share of a PHA's *authorized* vouchers are families using?
 - Good measure of additional families PHA could serve, if had sufficient funding to do so
- Funds utilization: What share of the “HAP” funds that a PHA receives is it using to assist families?
 - Indicates use of annual funding but not reserves
- Reserves: Does the PHA have “excess” reserves of unspent HAP funds?
 - Best indicator of whether PHA could assist more families

HCV Utilization Data on CBPP's Web Site

<http://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/national-and-state-housing-fact-sheets-data?fa=view&id=3586>

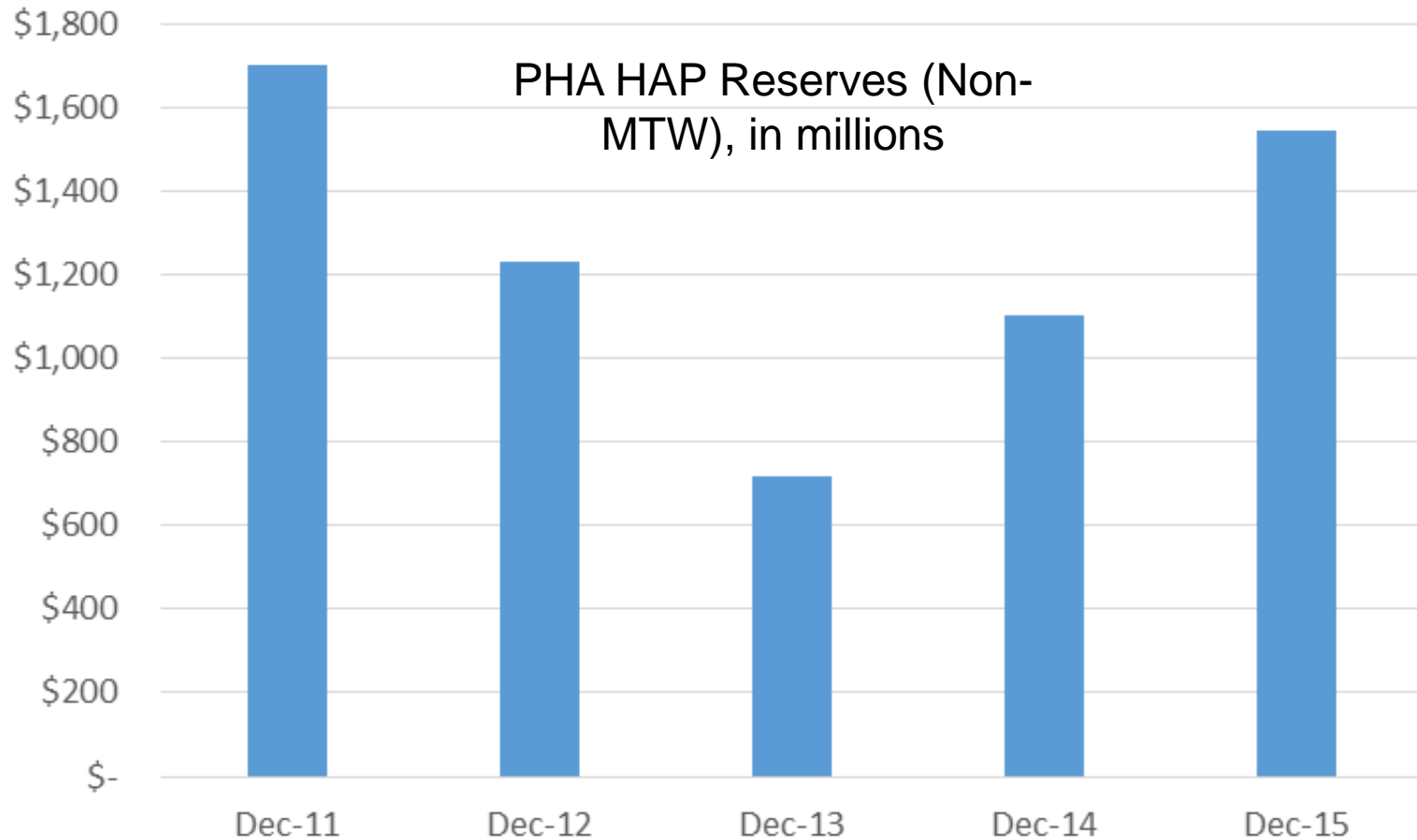


HCV HAP Funding Utilization



Source: CBPP estimates from HUD data.

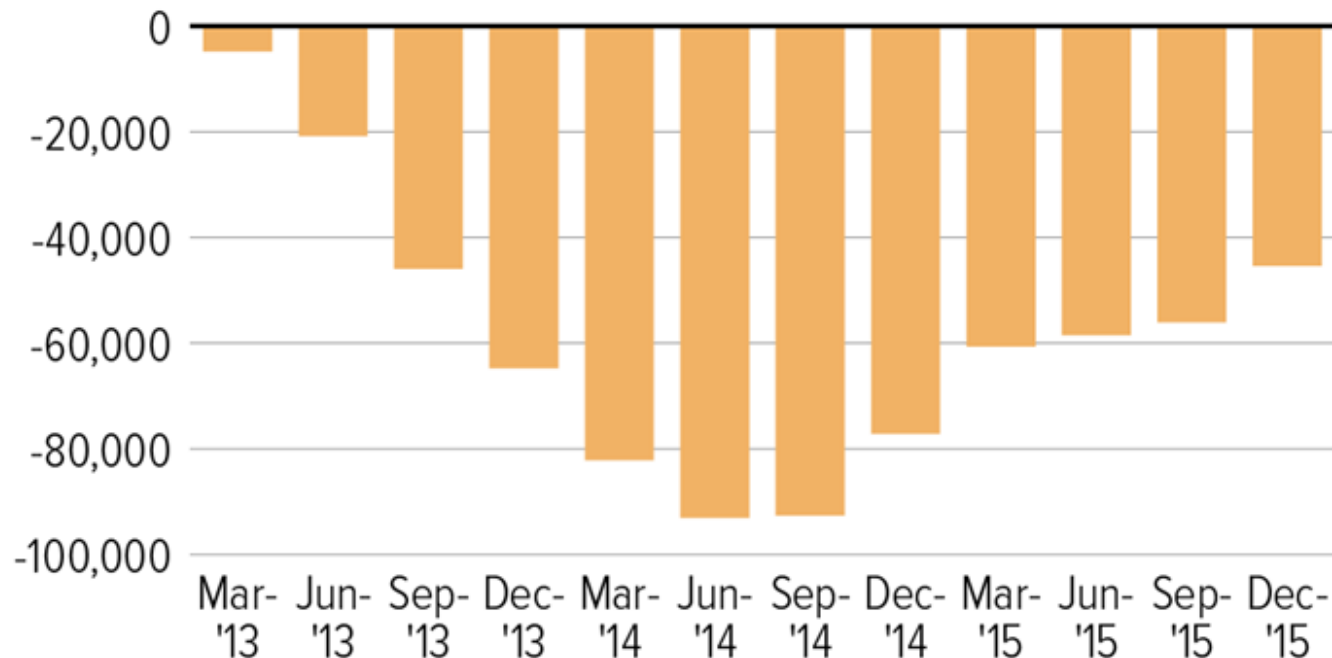
HCV Reserves Are High – PHAs Could Assist More Families This Year



Source: CBPP estimates from HUD data.

Sequestration Budget Cuts Caused Deep Housing Voucher Cuts

Decline in number of families using vouchers, relative to December 2012



Note: Figures exclude an estimated 50,000 new “tenant protection” vouchers (TPVs) issued to families since December 2012, as well as some 62,000 veterans’ supportive housing (VASH) vouchers used by families as of December 2015. TPVs replace assisted housing that has been demolished or otherwise eliminated, so they do not represent a net gain in families assisted; The President and Congress exempted VASH from sequestration.

Source: CBPP analysis of Department of Housing and Urban Development data

A dialogue with Amy Ginger, HUD Director of Housing Choice Voucher Programs, on how to improve voucher utilization

Douglas Rice

rice@cbpp.org

www.cbpp.org

202.408.1080

