



**Component 2: Fully fund mobility counseling.** Mobility counseling is a counseling intervention for families using vouchers that ensures they have full information about the impact of neighborhood features on life outcomes, as well as available units in areas they might not typically consider. It is clear from research around the country that without mobility counseling voucher families will live in segregated, opportunity-isolated areas. We are grateful that the state currently has a statutorily-established mobility counseling program, but it is funded at an insufficient level to make a meaningful impact. With an additional \$2 million of funding, the state’s mobility counseling program could assist 7% of voucher and RAP families with children connect to high-performing school districts.

**Component 3: Open Choice Rental Assistance Program Pilot.** It is a critical time to connect *housing* choice and *school* choice. The Open Choice Program gives Hartford parents the option of participating in a lottery for a seat in participating suburban school districts. Many Open Choice families qualify for the state’s Rental Assistance Program and would consider moving to the town where their children attend school and in becoming a greater part of the community. Such moves would open up Open Choice slots for new Hartford children. We propose that the Commissioner of Housing and the Commissioner of the Department of Education work together to establish a pilot Open Choice RAP program, which could be done by making the program a priority within existing resources if RAP funding stays level, or through an expansion of RAP if new funding becomes available.