

MTW Evaluation FAQs

1. There are already two existing taxonomies of MTW initiatives. These are *Innovation in Public Housing: The Moving to Work Demonstration* (Center for Urban and Regional Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) and *Innovations in the Moving to Work Demonstration* (Abt Associates). So, why is HUD asking for a new taxonomy?

Response:

Applicants should not propose to duplicate this work. Applicants should propose to review the existing resources and determine how these may be built upon to develop a simple relational database intended to be a tool for describing the program overall and identifying MTW agencies doing particular things; however this tool is intended to have only a few, critical variables and to be used only by the MTW program office and the MTW evaluation. The database should be a tool to facilitate answers to inquiries such as:

- Which and how many MTW agencies are doing “x”?
- Which exceptions to the 1937 Act are most and least common?
- Are particular exceptions more commonly used for particular activities?
- Which and how many MTW agencies have agency-level data on “x type of outcome”?

Work under this objective should be a small part of the overall evaluation.

2. How should a proposal address the research goals of objectives 4 when we do not yet have the results of work under objectives 1-3?

Response:

Applicants may demonstrate their proposed approach to meeting goals of objective 4—designing outcome analyses by topical area—by describing one or more example research designs, (much like responding to a sample Task, the difference being the applicant gets to choose the sample Task) including articulating testable hypotheses about outcomes or impacts related to the Demonstration’s goals, proposing a rigorous research design to address a topic the applicant believes has merit and will directly address Congress’s desire to evaluate the program, and describing a feasible data collection and analysis plan. Description should include proposed scope, complexity, time frame and overall budget for such a project. The successful applicant will be required to work with HUD to develop specific research projects and project budgets that may be the same or different from the example developed in the NOFA application.

3. How should a proposal address the research goals of objectives 5, 6 and 7 when we do not yet have the results of work under objectives 1-3?

Applicants may demonstrate their proposed approach to meeting goals of Objectives 5, 6 and 7 by proposing methods that use known, existing data sources. The successful applicant may revise those methods if better data sources come to light through work on the project.

4. What level of flexibility in research designs, methods, and budgets is acceptable at the proposal stage?

At the proposal stage, applicants may demonstrate their knowledge of research designs, methods, and budgets by describing do-able projects with realistic budgets that would achieve the objectives stated in the NOFA.