

HUD's Own Study Dashes Utopian Dream Of Cross-Neighborhood Prosperity



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ocial Engineering: President Obama's new suburban integration plan won't just harm the middle class by reducing safety and property values. It won't even provide the economic benefits it promises to relocated minorities.

We know this because HUD already tried a similar experiment under President Clinton of resettling urban poor in the suburbs. It failed, as a HUD study reveals.

From 1994 to 2008, HUD moved thousands of mostly African-American families from government projects to higher-quality homes in safer and less racially segregated neighborhoods. The 15-year experiment, dubbed "Moving to Opportunity Initiative," or MTO, was based on the well-intentioned notion that relocating inner-city minorities to better neighborhoods would boost their employment and education prospects.

But adults for the most part did not get better jobs or get off welfare. In fact, more went on food stamps. And their children did not do better in their new schools.

The 287-page study sponsored by HUD found that adults who relocated outside the inner city using Section 8 housing vouchers did not avail themselves of better job opportunities in their new neighborhoods, and saw a "sizable negative impact on annual earnings."

"Moving to lower-poverty neighborhoods does not appear to improve education outcomes, employment or earnings," the study concluded.

Even then-senior HUD official Raphael Bostic, a black Obama appointee, admitted in a foreword to the 2011 study that families enrolled in the program had "no better educational, employment and income outcomes."

Worse, crime simply followed them to their safer neighborhoods. "Males ... were arrested more often than those in the control group, primarily for property crimes," the study found.

The same progressive prognostications we're hearing now from Obama officials — that moving inner-city blacks closer to good jobs and schools will close "racial disparities" in employment and education — were made by Clinton social engineers back then.

Of course, even when reality mugs leftists, they never scrap their social theories. They just double down. Bostic insisted the problem was merely a matter of scale. "A more comprehensive approach is needed," he said.

But the study's authors doubted any better results from a larger or more aggressive relocation program that placed urban poor in even more affluent areas.

"The range of neighborhood variation induced by MTO is about as large as what we could possibly imagine any feasible housing policy achieving," they argued.

Indeed, the ambitious social experiment involved more than 4,600 families from several major cities. No matter. The Obama regime wants to nationalize the experiment by relocating millions of people in more than 1,250 cities and towns until social engineers "eliminate racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty."

"We're giving every person an equal chance to access quality housing near good schools, transportation and jobs no matter who they are (or) what they look like," HUD chief Julian Castro said, unveiling sweeping new rules forcing cities to diversify suburbs by rezoning.

Expect the same failed results, but on a national scale.

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