

COMMISSIONER

Janny Castillo

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Janny Castillo has served on the OHA Board of Commissioners since July, 2010. She has been a client of the Oakland Housing Authority for 22 years and has served on OHA's Resident Advisory Board (RAB) for over 12 years. During that time, Ms. Castillo graduated from OHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program and the Section 8 Homeownership Program, which helps residents learn the skills necessary to become self-sufficient and transition from OHA-subsidized housing. She has been an Oakland homeowner for six years, crediting her success to OHA.

After a personal experience with homelessness, Ms. Castillo overcame the trauma of extreme poverty by helping others. She has over 14 years experience working with individuals and families, first through Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS), a homeless service provider and currently for St. Mary's Center (SMC), a senior service provider. As SMC's Hope and Justice Coordinator, she trains extremely low income seniors to engage in social justice activities associated with protecting and building affordable housing for seniors living below the poverty level. She also facilitates a 12-week housing education class for shelter residents and works part-time for the Computer Technology Resource Center, an e-waste recycler that donates free refurbished computers to low income households, non-profits and schools.

In 2016, Ms. Castillo was selected as one of 15 individuals nationwide to participate on HUD's MTW Expansion Advisory Committee. This coveted position will advise and help guide the expansion of the MTW demonstration program for 100 additional Public Housing Authorities, giving PHAs flexibility with their federal dollars and greater local control of their programs to meet HUD's MTW statutory objectives. She also chairs the OHA Special Needs Committee which is responding to the housing crisis by developing innovative programs for homeless youth and families, and will continue to make a positive impact on the lives of OHA residents through her service on the BOC and the OHA Education Committee.

A community organizer at heart, she wishes to stand as an example and encourage OHA residents to actively participate in making Oakland communities safe and healthy. *"To do nothing exasperates the issues, so do what you can, but only every day, and all the time."*



**Oakland Housing
Authority**