



you are invited to apply for



The Good Neighbor Leadership Institute

Earn college credit while you develop creativity, build community and bring change to your neighborhood



A 12 week structured curriculum focused on:

Facilitation Skills

Conflict Mediation

Public Speaking

Access Educational Opportunities

Attitudinal Healing & Healing Circles

Community Problem Solving

Understanding Volunteerism

Building Strengths






Identifying Personal Assets

For information or an application for the Good Neighbor Leadership Institute please contact:

Aeshah Clotey, Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc.,
(510) 652.5530 ext.1 or aeshah@ahc-oakland.org

Your Top 5 Partners for success

FSS Clients who bring enthusiasm and effort toward getting ahead deserve the information and tools to make it happen. As part of your Individual Training and Services Program, FSS makes referrals, matching clients with agencies. These are the most referred agencies assisting our clients in achieving career goals.

-  1. **Operation Hope for credit counseling.**
3062 E. 9th Street (Fruitvale). Call 535-6700
-  2. **Wardrobe for Opportunity to receive interviewing clothes.** 570 14th Street. By referral only – FSS participants can call their coordinator for a referral
-  3. **Oakland Career Center for all job search needs.**
12th Street and Broadway. Call 768-4473
-  4. **Peralta Colleges for job training.**
Locations throughout Oakland, Berkeley, and Alameda. Call 466-7200
-  5. **Private Industry Council (PIC) for career counseling.** 1212 Broadway. Call 768-4446

FSS Facts

Does Graduating from FSS mean I lose my Section 8 Housing?

No. Not only do you not lose your Section 8 housing, but if you receive escrow it is not counted toward your earnings when your occupancy specialist determines your rent at your next annual exam.

Can I join FSS if I am not working?

Yes. FSS is a five year program that requires you to work full time by the end of your five year contract. However, you can begin FSS employed or unemployed. FSS participants who begin unemployed have an opportunity to earn significant escrow earnings when they do go back to work.

Has anyone on FSS used their escrow money toward a down payment on a home?

Yes, more than 20 FSS Graduates have used escrow payments toward home purchases.



Oakland Housing Authority

MAIN OFFICES

1619 Harrison Street
Oakland, CA 94612
510-874-1500

LEASED HOUSING

1805 Harrison Street
Oakland, 94612-3403
510-587-2100

WWW.OAKHA.ORG

fss@oakha.org

Language translation services are available in 151 languages at all offices at no cost.

Los servicios de traducción en 151 idiomas están disponibles en todas las oficinas sin ningún costo.

Trương chính thông dịch đầy đủ cho tới 151 tiếng nói miễn phí cho quý vị đang có tại nhiều văn phòng gần đây.

所有辦公地點都會免費提供 151 種的外語翻譯服務。

FSS SUCCESS

Newsletter of the Family self sufficiency program



Oakland Housing
Authority

ISSUE 1

October / November / December 2009

what is the FSS Program (Family self sufficiency) and what can it do for me?

The Family Self Sufficiency program is a voluntary work-incentive program offered by housing authorities across the country. Section 8 Participants join FSS for a period of five years. During that time, if you increase your income from work, and it results in an increase in your rent, you get a portion of your rent increase held in an escrow account held by the Housing Authority. At the end of the five-year contract, if you have met your goals, receive no welfare assistance (TANF or GA), and are working full-time, you get the proceeds of this escrow account, plus interest. In addition, during this five year time period, FSS will assist you toward financial success by providing referrals to agencies that can help you with job training, career counseling, credit repair, and more. Contact Avery Sim and Linda Stone to find out how the FSS program can work for you.

Apply for section 3 jobs through oakland Housing Authority

Federal stimulus dollars will result in the award of construction related contracts for OHA properties over the coming year. All contractors who participate in this process will be required to comply with Section 3 requirements to hire low-income residents for these projects. To assist the contractors, OHA is developing a list of our residents who are interested in these employment opportunities. A Section 3 employment referral form is enclosed in this newsletter. Additional copies of the form are available at the front desk of OHA business offices at 1805 Harrison Street, 1619 Harrison Street, 935 Union Street and 1327 65th Avenue.



FSS coordinators Return from Maternity Leave

Linda Stone and Avery Sim are back! After going out on maternity at the same time, they returned to discover that the interim FSS coordinators, Pam Thomas and Lorene Graves, did an excellent job of administering the program. The escrow accounts were maintained, new participants joined FSS, and some participants have graduated. Current FSS participants should contact Avery and Linda to update them on progress made towards achieving goals, report any changes in goals and to receive new referrals. Anyone interested in joining the FSS Program should also give them a call to receive enrollment information.

FSS Graduate spotlight: Catherine Stewart



When Catherine started FSS, she had car problems, credit problems, and not a lot of work experience.

Through FSS she found help to get a job, subsidized child care, and a new financial path.

Meet Catherine Stewart. She can tell you what FSS is really like from a client's perspective. Catherine started FSS in May of 2003. What does she have to say about FSS? "If you work, it works."

At the start of her time on FSS, Catherine wanted a job but faced many barriers. With a young son, spending a lot of time in classes was just not possible. She had car problems, credit problems, and little work experience. Needing interview clothes, she was given a referral by FSS to Wardrobe for Opportunity. Catherine landed a great job providing referral resources for housing residents at Chestnut Court. Always improving herself, she followed through with her FSS referral to the "Pathways to Opportunity" training to sharpen her on-the-job skills. She was referred to Operation Hope where she diligently worked on her credit, and started a new financial path. She used childcare referral agency BANANAS to find subsidized child care. Through her work, Catherine shares her personal experiences with her clients, helping them figure out how to succeed using these same agencies.

If you have been thinking about joining FSS and would like to see Catherine in person, you will be pleased to know she frequently speaks at the FSS Orientations. Catherine contributes in this way because she believes "when we are fortunate enough to get ahead in life, we should reach back and bring someone forward with us."

How to Contact FSS

FSS Coordinators are happy to speak with you about joining and participating in the program. Please contact **Avery Sim** at 587-2187, **Linda Stone** at 587-2128 or email them at fss@oakha.org

Have you completed your Oakland Housing Authority **Customer Satisfaction Survey**? Let OHA know how we are doing by completing a survey. Surveys are available at the office lobbies at 1619 and 1805 Harrison Street locations. Prizes are awarded monthly to survey responders.

FSS can Help YOU set SMART Goals

Need help with your old goals or in setting some new ones?

FSS is here to help you.

The acronym SMART describes goals that are:

- S Specific.** Identify specific targets and how you will accomplish them.
- M Measurable.** Find an objective way to measure your progress.
- A Action-oriented.** Define the steps you will take toward achieving your goal.
- R Result-focused.** Make life choices that will help you achieve the results of your goal.
- T Time-limited.** Set a time frame to help you focus and measure each goal.

Setting goals are one of the benefits of joining the FSS Program. Your goals in FSS are contained in the Individual Training and Services Plan we fill out during your first office visit. Do you need help with your old goals or in setting some new ones? Make an appointment with FSS Coordinators Avery Sim or Linda Stone and they will assist you.



Did you know? Homeownership at a Glance

Did you know that OHA has a homeownership program designed to assist eligible participants to purchase a home? The program assists participants by subsidizing the loan rather than subsidizing the landlord. Currently 47 participants have used the OHA Homeownership Program to purchase homes.

Eligibility requirements:

- You must be a first time homebuyer
- You must be an active Oakland Housing Authority participant
- You must be either:
Working consistently for one year with no breaks, working an average of 30+ hours a week and making a minimum of \$13,100 annually
Or; Elderly (62 years old or older) or disabled with a consistent monthly income. If you are elderly or disabled you do not have to meet the work requirement.

Facts:

- You will not lose your voucher or subsidy by purchasing a home
- You can purchase anywhere in the city of Oakland that is affordable for you.

For more information or to sign up for an orientation call Stephanie Christmas at (510) 587-2114.

You could be eligible to purchase a home. If you meet the eligibility requirements listed here, please contact Stephanie Christmas at (510) 587-2114 for more information.



Photos from top to bottom: Section 8 Homeownership Program HOMEOWNERS Teon Ceen and Jian Xia Ye and Vernon Walker in front of their homes

Eden I&R can help solve your problems

Call Eden I&R at 211 for help with your problems, including finding food, housing, health care, even with your utility bill.

Who do you turn to when you have a problem and need help? Pick up the phone and dial 211 for Eden I&R. There are non-profits, government agencies, religious institutions, and charities all around Alameda County that provide a wide range of social services from helping you with your utility bill to finding food, housing, and health care. Eden I&R's mission is "linking people and resources." **Let Eden I&R help you.**

The Good Neighbor Program

The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA), in partnership with Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc. (AHC), has designed two programs to educate and empower residents in their roles as neighbors and leaders.

The Good Neighbor Program is designed to inspire and encourage all members of OHA, staff and residents, to tap into their good neighbor skills. **The goal of the program is to create strong and healthy communities where everyone has shared responsibility and ownership in their neighborhoods.** It is not just a program — it is a way of life.

Join the Good Neighbor Program and learn how to create a strong and healthy neighborhood.

Graduates of the Good Neighbor Program will not only understand the commitments and expectations of being a valued member of their community, but learn how to create opportunities to learn from their neighbors and embrace core principles to resolve difficult issues. By taking a deeper look at what it means to be a good neighbor, OHA members will learn how improve their communities by tapping into the talents already present in their neighborhood. Selected residents will undergo a four-hour workshop led by AHC staff.

For more information, contact Aeshah Clotney at (510) 652-5530, ext. 1 or by email at Aeshah@ahc-oakland.org.

In addition to the Good Neighbor Program, the partnership is also launching a 12-week Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute is designed to encourage members of the OHA community to develop their creativity, vision and commitment to serve. The training will emphasize setting personal goals for education and employment and the development of an on-going peer support network. Institute participants will be able to apply their new skills to a specific project or idea. The community related projects might include **increasing neighborhood safety, expanding activities for elders and youth or improving nutrition.**

Structured around the 12-week curriculum, participants will have the opportunity to earn Cooperative Education Credits through the College of Alameda, another Good Neighbor Program partner. Participants will be selected from a pool of applicants who have submitted a written application. A selection committee will review the applications to select finalists for the interview process. For details about the Leadership Institute, please contact Aeshah Clotney at (510) 652-5530, ext. 1 or by email at Aeshah@ahc-oakland.org.

