

Planned Success

A Family Self-Sufficiency Publication

Volume I, Issue I

July/August 2003

“ Six essential qualities that are key to success: sincerity, personal integrity, humility, courtesy, wisdom, charity.”

- William Menninger

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This publication is brought to you by the Housing Services Team.

Anissa Albert, Joanna Rodriguez-Mendez, Lori Sanders, and Regina Davis

We've Moved

On April 28, 2003, the Antioch, Rodeo, San Pablo Housing Choice Voucher, and San Pablo Central Waiting List Staff relocated to their new office at 1805 Arnold Drive in Martinez.

This much anticipated move accompanies a change in the way the County of Contra Costa Housing Authority services its clients. Instead of placing staff in teams based on location, staff are now placed in teams based on function. The County of Contra Costa Housing Choice Voucher Program now has five teams to better service our clients.

The **Initial Eligibility Team** administers the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing waiting list. 925-957-7003

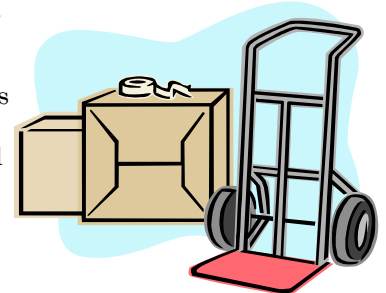
The **Occupancy Team** is responsible for new contracts, tenant moves, and portables. This is the team you contact when you want to move. 925-957-7004

The **Inspection Team** processes initial and annual inspections. 925-957-7002

The **Continued Eligibility Team** processes annual and interim recertifications. 925-957-7001

The **Housing Services**

Team administers the Shelter Plus Care, Family



Self-Sufficiency, and Moderate Rehabilitation programs. 925-957-7005

Our New Address:

1805 Arnold Drive
Martinez, CA 94553

Fax: 925-957-1280

TDD: 925-957-1685

Meet Your New Support System

The Housing Authority of The County of Contra Costa has established a new team to meet the needs of the participants on the Family Self-Sufficiency and Shelter Plus Care programs.



If you are an FSS participant the Housing

Services Team (HST) will be responsible for completing your annual and interim re-certifications. This team will also meet with each of you to encourage and monitor your progress. The HST is your support system.

The team consists of: Anissa Albert– Housing Counselor, Joanna Rodriguez-Mendez- Housing Counselor, Lori Sanders– Housing Services Assistant, and Regina Davis– Housing Assistance Manager.

Soon you will receive an introduction letter from your new case-manager.

Success Story : Julie Medina

Julie Medina is a graduate of the FSS program and a new homeowner! She had to have a good sense of balance in order to attain her goals. She is a single mother, a Safeway employee, and a student at Diablo Valley College. While a Section 8/ FSS participant, she served as tenant commissioner on our Advisory Housing Board.

When asked what her greatest challenge has been she states, "Raising children alone is a challenge in itself. It is also difficult to save money when you are low-income and struggling. FSS is your bank account; It's a waste not to do it."

Her advice to participants who might be feeling discouraged is to not give up. "Don't worry about how long a goal takes. Don't get off your path. Too much free time is wasting your time. Find something to fill in your free time that is working towards your goal."

Julie has been taking classes at DVC for almost ten years, one class at a time. She is now a couple units away from her AA Degree and Business Certificate. Once she attains her degree from DVC, Julie's next goal will be to focus on a career path. Her desire is to find a career that is fulfilling.

Purchasing a house was a learning experience. During her home buying experience Julie had to learn along the way. She encourages clients to educate themselves early.

We are proud of you Julie and wish you continued success!

Congratulations!

Tools For Change

The HST is committed to helping you reach your FSS goals. In order to support your efforts we will offer ten seminars a year called Tools For Change. TFC Seminars will be held on Thursday evenings and last from 1 to 2 hours. FSS participants are required to attend five of ten seminars, not including socials and open houses.

You are welcome to attend any and all seminars. However, your case-manager will guide you to which seminars will increase your ability to complete your FSS contract of participation.

Mark your calendars for these events:

- **August:** Open House



- **September:** Back To School

- **October:** Money Management/ Holiday Budgeting

- **November:** Child Support

- **December:** Holiday Social

Exact dates to be determined

We Want You!

The Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa is looking for individuals who are interested in serving as an **Advisory Housing Commissioner**. Advisory Housing Commissioners, advise the County Board of Supervisors on the operations and programs of the Housing Authority.

The Commission meets evenings on the third Monday of every month. Commissioners receive a \$50 stipend for each meeting attended.

If you are interested in helping shape the direction, programs, and services of the Housing Authority, please contact Judy Hayes,

Administrative Services Officer, for an appointment.

Call Judy at (925) 957-8028



Back To School

Returning to school as an adult can be a rewarding experience. You can meet new and exciting people while learning important skills.

For those that did not finish high school, getting your GED is your first step to moving forward. In order to get your GED (General Educational Development) Credential,



you need to contact your local Adult Education Resource Center, and/or your local community college. They can help you with preparation classes that will assess what you need to study in order to pass the test. With a GED you can gain employment, continue your education, and work towards starting a business of your own.

If you already have your GED or have already graduated from high school, you might take a look at community

colleges. At a community college you can work towards your AA Degree, take classes that enable you to transfer to a four year university, or just take skill building classes of interest to you.

Furthering your education offers many opportunities. Education can be a major part of your future.

For further information contact:

Anissa Albert at 925-957-7081

aalbert@contracostahousing.org

See back page for more resources

Welcome New FSS Participants!

Welcome New FSS Participants! We are here to help you on your journey.

- Dena Aguirre ■ Lindsey Andrews ■
- Nassir Alcozai ■ Loretta Berryman ■
- Elaine Chavarria-Fryer ■
- James Evans ■ Toinette Harper ■
- Tanisha Harrison ■ Dieu Tiu Hunyh ■
- Jessica Lopez ■ Robin Loyd ■

- Johnny Montanez ■ Mary Nadeau ■
- Denise Page ■ Jacquelyn Randon ■
- Debra Reizenstein ■ Denise Rios ■
- Reina Rosales ■ Che Serrano ■
- Nannette Spencer ■ Nora Stoll ■
- Matt Tarasoff ■ Scott Tavares ■
- Trini Weng ■ Tammy Wess ■
- Trena Whitley ■ Adrienne Williams ■



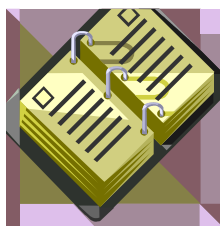
Congratulations
Renee Roberts
Victoria Pickett
FSS Graduates!

Mark Your Calendar!

All Orientations and Open Houses will be held at 1805 Arnold Drive, Martinez

FSS Orientations

- Tuesday 7/29 10:00– Noon
- Tuesday 8/12 10:00– Noon
- Tuesday 8/26 10:00– Noon



FSS Open House

- Thursday 8/21 5:30-7pm
- Thursday 8/28 5:30-7pm

*To reserve a space call
 (925) 957-7550*

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF
CONTRA COSTA**

1805 Arnold Drive
Martinez, Ca 94553

Phone: 925-957-7005

Fax: 925-957-1280

Email: rdavis@contracostahousing.org



Achieve To Succeed!

We're On The Web

contracostahousing.org

**“Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.”
- John Wooden**

Resources

Acalanes Adult Center
925-935-0170

Antioch Adult Education
925-706-5365

Project Second Chance
925-957 3250

Martinez Adult School
925-228-3276

Loma Vista Adult Center
925-685-7340

Pittsburg Adult Education
925-473-4460

West Contra Costa
510-215-4666

Los Medanos College
925-439-2181

Diablo Valley College
925-685-1230

Contra Costa College
510-235-7800



Has Escuchado sobre el programa de Family Self Sufficiency, tambien conocido como FSS? Este programa le ayuda a independisarse de la asistencia publica. Para mas informacion por favor llame a

Joanna
Rodriguez-
Mendez al
(925) 957-7084

The purpose of the Family Self- Sufficiency program for the Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa is to provide Housing Choice Voucher recipients with an extensive approach to building individuals, guiding families, and developing goals to achieve self-sufficiency.

The Family Self-Sufficiency program is committed to the celebration of accomplishments and the promotion of economic independence.