

The Section 8 Advocate

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

RCHA Beginning New Family Self Sufficiency Program

All of us here in the Section 8 department are happy to announce that our agency has been awarded a Family Self

sufficiency by achieving their own employment goals. These are employment goals chosen by the participant, not HUD or the Housing Authority.

their goal(such as childcare, transportation, etc). The FSS Coordinator can then help the family organize their efforts and find existing community services to tackle those challenges.



To do this, the FSS Coordinator works with the participants to:

1. Identify steps needed to achieve their goal. (such as job training, education, etc), and
2. Identify road-blocks that make it difficult to achieve

In addition to having a cheerleader in your corner helping you meet your goals, there is a real financial benefit to successfully completing the FSS Program. As an incentive, program participants are able to build a balance in an escrow

(story continued on page 2)

Sufficiency (FSS) grant from HUD. In a nutshell, FSS is an employment program to help Section 8 participants become self-

Utility Assistance Now Available

The West Virginia Utility Assistance Program (WV-UAP) is able to assist low-income families in West Virginia in maintaining or restoring electrical service to their homes.

been able to assist over 6,500 households since October 2008.

In order to qualify for assistance, residents must have shown a sincere effort to pay their utility bills within the last 90 days, have an active termination notice/ broken agreement let-

ter or disconnected utility service, and meet income guidelines.

To learn more about this program or to see if you are eligible, visit www.dollarenergyfund.org, or give them a call at 1-800-683-7036.

Through its partnership with all major utility companies in WV, the WV-UAP has

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FRI., AUGUST 13

4:30 p.m. - Deadline to submit FSS application to RCHA office

FRI., SEPTEMBER 10

RSVP for Annual Section 8 Landlord Meeting

WED., SEPTEMBER 22

9:30 a.m. - Section 8 Tenant meeting, RCHA conference room

2:00 p.m. - Annual Section 8 Landlord Meeting, RCHA conference room

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Family Self Sufficiency, con't.

account (or interest bearing savings account) established by the Randolph County Housing Authority (RCHA). As a participant's income goes up based on employment or a job promotion, a part of the rent which was before paid by the RCHA will then be paid by the participant. The difference of the amount will be placed in the escrow account by the RCHA.

For example, if RCHA is currently paying \$200 a month and due to an increase in income, RCHA will then only be required

to pay \$175, the extra \$25 will be placed in the escrow account. Upon successful completion of the program, the money will be awarded to the participant.

We are very excited about the opportunity FSS will provide to our program participants! We hope you feel the same. We will be hiring our FSS Coordinator over the next few weeks, so I am sure we will be able to introduce him or her in the next newsletter. In the meantime, if you have questions about the

FSS program, feel free to call the office.

If you are interested in participating in the FSS program, please submit a written request for an application to our office.

The rules of our program require that we choose participants by drawing names of applicants lottery-style. There are only 25 slots available.

To be considered for this drawing, please return your application to our office no later than 4:30 pm on August 13, 2010.

READ THE SECTION 8 ADVOCATE ONLINE:

WWW.RCHAWV.ORG

Annual Section 8 Landlord Meeting

Randolph County Housing Authority's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance program will hold our annual Landlord meeting Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

We have information to share with you including proposed changes in the program and our new landlord handbook, and we hope to have folks from other programs joining us to

speaking about weatherization rehab programs available to landlords, and suggested insurance coverage for rental units.

Our entire Section 8 staff attended a three day training on HUD's Housing Quality Standards each assisted unit must meet. It was a good refresher for our existing Inspector and updated us on several regulation changes.

You will want to at-

tend to hear the possible changes in septic system documentation, deteriorating paint deficiencies, and other inspection related issues.

We also want to hear your questions, comments, suggestions, and ideas. Please join us!

Refreshments and a door prize will be provided.

Please RSVP to 636-6495, x10, by Friday, September 10.

Tips from the Inspector

Laura Chenoweth always gives us great tips, but sometimes she has to think a while to come up with them. However, we all attended a training this month on inspection standards, and now she has a whole list of good tips for upcoming newsletters!

One of the scariest things we learned about during that class was what can

happen to a hot water heater when the temperature and pressure valves do not work properly.

So, Laura's tip this month is to move all items from around your water heaters (and furnaces). Not just flammable materials are a problem, but also items that will interfere with the temperature and pressure valves and discharge

lines can cause a big problem in a hurry.

Laura will be paying careful attention to this during her inspections, so remember to tidy up this area the next time you clean. And be sure to watch for this during your own unit inspections, landlords. We want everyone to pass their inspections, but more importantly, to BE SAFE!

Tenant Good News

We are so happy to announce that during the past six months, two of our Section 8 Voucher Program participants have purchased homes through our Voucher to Homeownership Program.

Congratulations to

our new home owners! They both worked very hard toward their homeownership goal, and we are proud we were able to assist them!

The Voucher Homeownership program allows qualified

voucher holders to use their assistance towards the purchase of a home rather than towards rent to a landlord. If you are interested, please call your Occupancy Specialist for more details.

Section 8 Tenant's Meeting

Mark your calendars! We would like to encourage all Section 8 tenants to attend our annual tenant meeting.

Wednesday, September 22, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at Randolph County Housing Authority,

1404 North Randolph Avenue in Elkins.

We have a lot of information to share with you about proposed changes in the rental assistance program. Also, we would like to start a tenant advisory council, and

as always, we want to hear your questions, concerns, and ideas.

Please join us – coffee, homemade treats, and a door prize will be provided.

Dream of owning a home?



Learn more about your opportunity to become a homeowner through the Voucher to Homeownership Program.

TALK TO YOUR OCCUPANCY SPECIALIST TODAY!

Angie White 304-636-6495, x21

Lisa Shaffer 304-636-6495, x20

Randolph County
Housing Authority

Bulk Mail
Permit No. 10

PO Box 1579
1404 North Randolph Ave.
Elkins, WV 26241

Phone: 304-636-6495
Fax: 304-636-6596
E-mail: info@rchawv.org

WE'RE ON THE
WEB:

WWW.RCHAWV.ORG

Information Available on RCHA Website

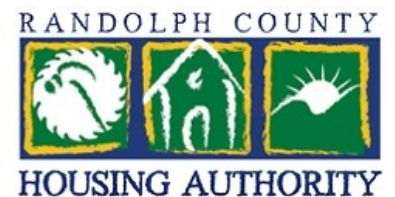
The Housing Authority has been working hard to make our website informative and useful. There is information available on the site for all RCHA's programs, including Development, Home Repair, and Youthbuild just to name a few.

Those of you involved with Section

8 will be able to access some commonly used forms, read our newsletter, and get some information about the program itself.

We hope to keep improving by adding more program information, FAQs, and waiting list status to our section of the site in the near future.

Log on to www.rchawv.org and let us know what you think!



*Building Stronger Families and
Communities in North Central WV*