



Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — November 27, 2017
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FORMER HOUSING AUTHORITY CLIENTS CELEBRATE FINANCIAL FREEDOM

WHAT: The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) and its nonprofit subsidiary Austin Pathways will host “Transforming Lives,” the agency’s 20th Annual Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) and Homeownership Recognition Luncheon. This year, 37 FSS participants and two homeowners will be honored.

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. Wednesday (Nov. 29)

WHERE: Hilton Austin, 500 E. 4th St.

EVENT: Austin Community College Vice President of Student Services Virginia Fraire will be this year’s master of ceremonies, and Austin City Council Members Pio Renteria and Ora Houston also will be in attendance. This year’s speakers include 2001 FSS graduate and former HACA Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) client DeShaun Ealoms. While participating in FSS, Ealoms earned a bachelor’s in sociology from Huston-Tillotson University. She later went on to earn a master’s in special education from Texas State University. She currently serves as a Parent Program Specialist for Child Protective Services at the Department of Family and Protective Services and owns her own home.

HACA’s FSS program equips residents with the tools and knowledge they need to achieve housing and financial independence. Services include education, workforce, health and life-skills programs, bolstered by access to child care, transportation and other support.

Participants accrue escrow savings funds as their earned income increases, which are then used to support education, homeownership, debt repayment or other self-sufficiency goals. To date, more than 250 participants have graduated from the FSS Program.

The Homeownership Program, provided through the Austin Affordable Housing Corporation (AAHC), provides services including Down Payment Assistance to aid residents with \$10,000 toward a down payment and closing costs on a home. In addition, an in-house financing and an affordable stock of homes is available through Equity CLT. HACA has helped 104 families become homeowners since 2004.

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