

ONE VOICE

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HUD Awards HACA \$2.7M to Help Public Housing Residents Get Better Jobs

HUD recently awarded HACA \$2.7 million to establish a Jobs Plus Pilot Program to help the agency address high rates of individual and household unemployment in Austin. This is the largest competitive grant HACA has ever received for resident services. The program will also leverage \$4.5 million from HACA and its partners, including in-kind contributions.

The funds will establish an evidence-based program for residents living at BTW and Chalmers Courts. HACA and its partners will deliver collaborative programming based on employment-related services, financial incentives — Jobs Plus Earned Income Disregard, and Community Supports for Work.

Of the 338 non-elderly households in HACA's combined public housing community, 54 percent have no members showing earned income. Similarly, about 66 percent of residents between the ages of 18 and 64 are unemployed and have no reported earned income.

Community organizations working with HACA on this program



(many of whom are represented in the above photo) are: Workforce Solutions, Capital Idea, Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, Austin Area Urban League, Skillpoint Alliance, Economic Growth Business Incubator, BiG Austin, Austin Community College, Austin Pathways, African American Youth Harvest Foundation, and the Austin Affordable Housing Corporation.

HACA Granted \$250K to Help Residents Reach Financial Independence

HACA was recently awarded a \$250K grant from HUD through the FSS Program. The grant will allow HACA to continue to work with its community partners to help public housing residents and HCV participants increase their education, obtain employment, and become economically independent.

The program encourages innovative strategies that link public housing and HCV assistance with other resources to enable participating families to find jobs, increase income, reduce or eliminate the need for rental and/or welfare assistance, and make progress toward achieving self-sufficiency.

Participants sign a five-year contract that requires the head of household to obtain employment and that no member of the

FSS family is receiving cash welfare assistance at the end of the term. An escrow account is established by HACA on behalf of FSS participants.

The amount credited to the account is based on increases in the family's earned income during the term of the FSS contract. If the family successfully completes its FSS contract, the family receives escrow funds, which can be used to improve credit scores, pay educational expenses, start a small business, or put a down payment on a home.

For more information about the FSS program, contact Tiffany Middleton at (512) 767-7828 or Felisa Jones at (512) 767-7825.

Residents Celebrate Graduation from Skillpoint Alliance's Gateway Program



Bouldin Oaks resident Layla Mohsin (pictured fourth from the left) recently graduated from Skillpoint Alliance's Gateway Certified Nurse Aide Program during the organization's 250th Graduation Ceremony.

HACA residents from several different public housing properties will start off 2016 with new career paths after graduating with professional certifications from Skillpoint Alliance's Gateway program.

The Gateway program provides valuable and rapid training and education, preparing participants for entry-level employment in four to eight weeks, according to the Skillpoint website. Each training provides entry to a career that will lead to upward mobility and increased wages.

Layla Mohsin

Bouldin Oaks resident Layla Mohsin recently graduated from the Skillpoint Gateway Certified Nurse Aide Program.

"My goal is to help as much as I can," Mohsin said. "Being with people in hard situations made me feel that I am here to do something great as a human."

Mohsin earned her NATCEP certification by completing 40 clinical hours and 100 classroom hours. In addition, she also finished CPR and first aid classes for health care professionals.

Rosa Rodriguez

Rosa Rodriguez graduated from the Skillpoint Gateway

program as a Certified Nurse's Assistant. She continues to work with Goodwill on earning her GED.

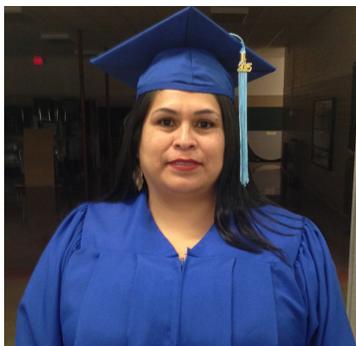
As an FSS member, Rodriguez's FSS Coordinator, Tiffany Middleton, was able to link her to supportive services like transportation assistance and child care that have allowed her to meet her educational and career goals.

Raymond Leibas

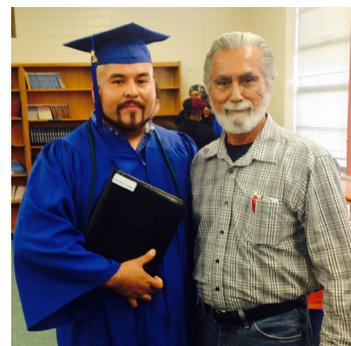
Northgate resident and ROSS member Raymond Leibas received his HVAC certification from Skillpoint in December 2015.

Congratulations and best of luck to all of you!

For more information about how to enroll in Skillpoint's Gateway program, visit <http://skillpointalliance.org/the-programs/gateway-program/> or call (512) 363-6773.



Rosa Rodriguez



Raymond Leibas & ROSS Specialist Ben Calvo

North Loop Residents Gather for Dinner and a Health Fair

More than 60 North Loop residents last month enjoyed a holiday meal cooked, in part, by Outreach/ROSS Specialist Mary Gonzales-Limas. Gonzales-Limas cooked six turkeys from this year's annual turkey distribution using the oven at the TV Dinners Cafeteria. The next day, the property's Resident Council hosted a come-and-go health fair. Vendors included WeViva, the Kerring Group, Grace Hospice, Cuidado Casero and Primero Health.

WeViva brings light fitness classes and nutritional information to North Loop, including regular trips to the local farmer's market. The Kerring Group made minor repairs to residents' medical equipment, and distributed information about different tools to improve quality of life. Grace Hospice distributed goodies and conducted free blood pressure checks.

If you missed the last health fair, don't worry. Another (larger) health fair is scheduled from 1-3 p.m. Jan. 27 at North Loop.



Bessie Hawkins (center) Jesse Rivas, Ava Hughes, Steve Royal, and others learned valuable information at the December health fair.

Call Mary Gonzales-Limas at (512) 589-7451 or email maryg@hacanet.org for more information.

Chalmers Youth to be Recognized by Boys & Girls Clubs

Chalmers Courts resident Amani McDonald has been named the 2016 Junior Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area. He will be presented with a \$1,500 scholarship at a luncheon on Feb. 12. Youth of the Year celebrates the



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**

extraordinary achievements of Boys & Girls Club teens ages 14 to 18, according to the organization's website. Members who earn the title embody the values of leadership service; academic excellence; and healthy lifestyles. Congratulations Amani!

Holidays 2015



GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY

Are you reading One Voice? For a chance to win a \$10 gift card, call (512) 477-4488 ext. 2608, and leave a message with your name, phone number, property name and unit number. Mention the key phrase, "Cheers to 2016." The first 15 callers will be entered into a drawing to win one of 10 gift cards. Contest open only to public housing residents.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

HACA Administration	(512) 477-4488
Resident Call Center	(888) 842-4484
Maintenance Work Orders	(512) 477-8518
Section 8/Housing Choice	(512) 477-1314
Fire/Police	911
Non-Emergency Police	311
Poison Center	(800) 222-1222
Quit Smoking	(877) 937-7848

One Voice is published by the Housing Authority of the City of Austin. Submit comments, articles and photos to One Voice via email at: media@hacanet.org.

All submissions must include a name and phone number to be considered. Copy may be edited because of space limitations.

OUR MISSION & VISION

To cultivate sustainable affordable housing communities and partnerships that inspire self-reliance, growth and optimism. We envision neighborhoods where poverty is alleviated, communities are healthy and safe, and all people can achieve their full potential.



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 New Years Day HACA Closed	2
					Rent due	
3	4 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	5	6 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	7	8	9
10	11 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	12	13 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	14 Resident Council Gaston 1:30 p.m.	15 Resident Council 11:30 a.m. Georgian 3 p.m. Santa Rita	16
17	18 Resident Council Thurmond 1 p.m. Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	19 Resident Council BTW 11:30 a.m.	20 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	21	22	23
24	25 Resident Council Meadowbrook 1:30 p.m. Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ North Loop	26	27 Quit Tobacco Class 1-2 p.m. @ Lakeside	28 Resident Council Shadowbend, Manchaca, Man. Village, Goodrich Rosewood/Salina 11 a.m.	29	30
31						