



FAIR HOUSING NEWSLETTER APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

APRIL 2019

The Bowling Green Human Rights Commission is a non-profit agency committed to serving the community through advocating for the rights of the protected classes which includes: race, color, religion, national origin, age (over 40), sex, disability and familial status (in housing). Created by city of B.G. ordinance in 1966, the commission also investigates allegations of discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. The commission overall efforts focuses on education, assistance and promoting fair treatment and positive human relations within the community.

"BGHRC WILL BE HOSTING THE 1ST FAIR HOUSING COMMUNITY NEIGHBORHOOD CELEBRATION"
On Friday, April 26, 219 from 11:30 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m. the event location will be at the BGHRC. The event is FREE TO THE PUBLIC WITH FOOD, BEVERAGES, GAMES, INFORMATION, MUSIC AND DOOR PRIZES.

IN THIS MONTH ISSUE: "HOUSING ASSISTANCE, EMPLOYMENT AND SELF SUFFICIENCY"

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

HUD provides rental subsidies to 2 million nonelderly and nondisabled households, of these, 57 percent reported some form of earned income at the end of 2017. Having earned income, however, does not mean having enough income to afford housing. The average monthly earned income for tenants with earnings was \$ 1,664., whereas the average gross rent for housing was \$ 1,230. To be able to afford housing without assistance, families need to have a consistent income, more working hours, and higher wages. Currently, many assisted tenants frequently enter and exit the labor force, have part-time rather than full-time employment, and seldom earn more than the minimum wage.

Residents of HUD assistance housing face numerous barriers to better employment, including chronic health problems, childcare, and other family care responsibilities, and lack of skills and education, and individuals experiencing homelessness may face challenges specific to homelessness in addition to these impediments. HUD has several programs and local initiatives designed to overcome these barriers.



Provided-

the CDBG Program

ed by

Connecting HUD—Assisted Resident to EMPLOYMENT

HUD can and does influence relationships between housing and work through its community development initiatives and investments that improve transit options, preserve and develop affordable housing. And revitalize neighborhoods; however, the agency has a special opportunity to deliver employment opportunities and workforce development for individuals who live in HUD assisted housing. Individuals in HUD assisted housing may face several barriers to employment that common among low income earners. The supports and services needed to secure employment or increase wages vary considerably. For some, a bus pass, a childcare voucher, or some training is sufficient to help secure and employment, may need mental health significant



These barriers and challenges, although daunting, can often be overcome with sufficient effort and targeted supports. Several past and present HUD programs have targeted these barriers with varying degrees of success. Evaluations of these programs offer helpful insights on which strategies work best and under what conditions they could be applied to ongoing and future initiatives

Family SELF - SUFFICIENCY Program

This program was established in 1990, the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program allows PHAs to enter into a five-year contract (that PHAs can extend for two additional years) with participating households to set goals and coordinate services that help residents become self sufficient.



The program has three main components: an escrow account, case management and referrals to supportive services. If a participant's income rises during the contract period, prompting an increase in their required rent contribution, the PHAs issues a credit into an escrow account. The participant can use the escrow account for goal related expenses and receives the account in full after completing the program.

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