



THE RESIDENT

NEWSLETTER

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Health Centers Offer Affordable Care to Public Housing Residents

As health care grows increasingly expensive, many individuals lack options for addressing important health needs. Several Public Housing agencies (PHAs) nationwide are taking innovative steps to ensure that residents receive the care they deserve.

The Tallahassee Housing Authority (THA) and the Bond Community Health Center in Tallahassee, Florida, recently opened a new primary care center in THA's Springfield Complex to help improve health care access for Public Housing residents. The center offers pediatric care, well-baby visits, breast exams, sexually transmitted disease (STD) screening, and more. Also, to ensure that all residents can benefit from the center, THA is offering transportation to the primary care center for tenants in other developments.

Taking a similar approach, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) in Cleveland, Ohio, created two clinics in the heart of Public Housing developments on the east and west sides of the city. CMHA gets advice from the resident councils on the best ways to tell residents about services and making sure the clinics meet community needs. Members of the boards also act as ambassadors for the health care units as they attend community meetings, engage friends and neighbors, as well as direct fellow residents into care.

In Boston, Massachusetts, the Whittier Street Health Center is a mainstay of the community. It provides primary, behavioral health, dental, and vision care to a diverse population of patients. However, last year the center took its services a step further with the development of the Vibrant Communities Program. The program employs "social health coordinators" to improve resident health by connecting Public Housing residents with medical care, and also with community services that address what residents identify as their biggest health concerns: unemployment, community violence, and stress. These creative programs, and others like them, are helping create significant change and assisting Public Housing residents in reaching their full health potential. Local affordable health centers can be found at: <http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>.



Scholarship Opportunities for Residents of Public Housing

Education can be a stepping stone to financial security. However the cost of private school or college tuition means that the best education is typically out of reach for many Public Housing families. Fortunately, there are a number of scholarship opportunities for residents of Public Housing that can provide residents with assistance in achieving their educational goals. Some of the programs are sponsored by national housing associations for residents around the country while others are for low-income and Public Housing residents who live in a particular state or city, below are three examples of scholarship funds specifically for Public Housing residents.

National Scholarships

To encourage academic excellence and community responsibility among high school students, the Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (PHADA) has created a scholarship program for graduating high-school seniors preparing to enter college. Students can apply to three different scholarships from PHADA: The Stephen J. Bollinger Memorial Scholarship offers one award of \$7,000; the Freedom & Civil Rights Scholarship offers an award of \$5000; and the HD Supply Scholarships also offers a single award of \$5000. Each scholarship goes to a deserving youth currently living in a PHADA member housing agency. The PHADA Scholarship Committee manages the scholarship fund and the money goes directly to the school that the recipient will be attending. The school will deposit the money into the student's account to only be used for paying for tuition, books, and activities directly related to the student's education. For further information on the PHADA scholarships, go to: http://www.phada.org/scholarship_program.php.

Local Scholarships

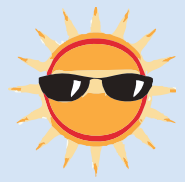
Step Up for Students offers private school scholarships to low-income students in Florida. The program gives parents the opportunity to choose the best school for their children. Created in 2001 by the Florida Legislature and administered by the nonprofit Step Up for Students, the program awards scholarships based on income and not on academic performance. Students from households who qualify for the free or reduced lunch program may qualify for the scholarship program. The scholarships cover up to a projected \$4,335 for private school tuition and books or up to \$500 in transportation costs to an out-of-district public school. For further information, go to: www.StepUpForStudents.org/Family.

The California scholarship program, Opportunity for All, is available to any resident of a Public Housing development managed by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA). The program is funded HausAngeles, a Los Angeles based real-estate firm which donates 10 to 20 percent of its commissions to the fund. Any individual, family, or organization that sells or purchases property in Los Angeles can opt to donate to the program. Scholarships are awarded after the completion of a competitive application. HausAngeles and HACLA jointly review and select winners. For further information, go to: <http://kidsprogressinc.org/>.

For Public Housing residents, scholarships are a very helpful tool to reach their educational goals. Scholarship opportunities can be found at: www.scholarships.com.

TIPS:

HUD and DOL Help Youth Find Summer Jobs



As the school year comes to an end, young people across the country look to improve their incomes and work skills with a summer job. To help in the search, the Department of Labor (DOL) and HUD have created Summer Jobs+. The goal of this joint initiative is to have business and government create 250,000 summer employment placements with at least 100,000 paid jobs or internships.

President Barack Obama spearheaded the creation of Summer Jobs+ in January of this year to address the issue of youth employment. "America's young people face record unemployment, and we need to do everything we can to make sure they've got the opportunity to earn the skills and a work ethic that come with a job," Obama said.

PHAs have been encouraged to provide new or expanded employment opportunities to youth living in public housing. Interested youth should contact their PHA since they may be directly hiring or promoting the hiring of Public Housing youth. Many other opportunities can be found through the online search tool on www.dol.gov/summerjobs. Searches can be made by city and state as well as by keyword.

The jobs, internships, and job shadow opportunities from Summer Jobs+ will teach participants communication, time management, and teamwork. There may also be opportunities to take part in workshops on resume writing and interviewing or learn and earn opportunities that provide youth valuable on-the-job skills while bringing home an equally valuable paycheck.

Youth interested in participating in the Summer Jobs+ program should view the 2012 Summer Jobs+ Web page at www.dol.gov/summerjobs/youth.htm. Information about the program along with an online tool that links youths to summer employment, internship, and mentoring programs are available on the Web page.

Contact us:

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HELP CORNER

Summertime Means Pool Safety Time

For many, summer means cooling off at a friend's back yard or local public pool. Unfortunately every summer children and adults drown in swimming accidents. Learning to swim can be a lifesaver. Additionally never leave children alone and unsupervised while playing in a pool. To find local swim lessons and additional pool safety tips visit: www.poolsafely.gov.