

## **HOPE VI Community & Supportive Services Best Practices - Self Sufficiency Program Portland Housing Authority**

### **Self-Sufficiency Program Helps Families Meet Goals**

All working-able adults living in Public Housing or receiving a Section 8 voucher at Humboldt Gardens are required to participate in the on-site Opportunity Housing Initiative (OHI) program. This self-sufficiency program includes the development of employment goals and career enhancement plans, financial management skills and educational experiences as well as family and community goals. In addition, families have the opportunity to develop a savings account to support their transition from the housing subsidy. Ultimately, families are expected to transition into non-subsidized housing, such as other rental opportunities (tax credit or market rents) or homeownership.

Families receive focused case-management from their OHI program specialist, who meets with residents regularly to assist families in identifying and achieving goals connected to housing stability and self-sufficiency. In addition, savings accounts have been established for all families that are paying over \$300 a month in rent. Every dollar over \$300 is redirected into an account, held by the Portland Housing Authority (HAP) that families can use to either achieve interim goals or receive upon graduation to assist them in transitioning from subsidized housing. Families also participate in classes and workshops focused on financial fitness and credit issues, housing stability and mobility and career enhancement.

The success of this initiative will be evaluated by both the number of families that are able to successfully leave housing and the subsequent recycling of the housing subsidy so that new families can be served. Interim outputs will include the number of families with savings accounts, the number of families who have attended HAP taught classes and workshops and the number of families who have made gains in either employment or education.

### **For more information on this Best Practice contact:**

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