

Peoria Housing Authority



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Social Media

Facebook: @PeoriaHousingAuthority

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Mission

The Peoria Housing Authority is committed to providing affordable housing opportunities for all citizens living in an area generally known as "Central Illinois." In addition, through the development of strong partnerships with current residents and appropriate community agencies, the Peoria Housing Authority seeks to develop new programs (housing, social, educational) to enhance the quality of life for residents, thereby offering numerous opportunities for self-sufficiency.

Vision

The Peoria Housing Authority:

- Will have diversified beyond traditional core areas, including more private housing management and development, to provide sources of income growth for the efficient delivery of housing services.
- Plans to be viewed positively as a growing and competitive developer and provider of affordable housing in all neighborhoods and an integral part of the community.
- Will be a customer-oriented high performer with more resident involvement.
- Plans to evolve into a quasi-public/private organization that will become the model for public housing.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

James Fassino, *Chairman*
Carl Cannon, *Vice Chairman*
Alma Brown, *Secretary*
Tekia Childa
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Peoria Housing Authority is proud to provide many opportunities for self-sufficiency and personal success to our residents. Our programs include the Resident Opportunities for Self Sufficiency-Service Coordinators (ROSS-SC) Grant and the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS).

THE ROSS-SC GRANT

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) ROSS program encourages innovative, locally-driven strategies that link public housing assistance with public and private resources to enable participating families to increase earned income; reduce or eliminate the need for welfare assistance; make progress towards achieving economic independence and housing self-sufficiency; and serve seniors and individuals with disabilities by helping them age in-place, avoid long-term care, and improve their living conditions and quality of life. In 2016, the Supportive Services Program at PHA had a total cost savings of \$307,942.20 for services rendered to the residents. The ROSS Grant has served over 250 residents for a total of 11,400 services. Here is the story of one of our residents:

Sherri Carlton came from homelessness to Peoria Housing Authority. When she came to PHA, she didn't have anything but a few bags of clothes. The ROSS Grant Coordinator connected her with all the essential furniture items for her apartment. After sleeping two weeks on the floor, she finally had a bed—but she still didn't have an income and was having difficulty paying her rent. The ROSS Grant Coordinator was able to connect her with Township General Relief Assistance so she could pay her rent while the Coordinator helped her apply for disability. She now has a sustainable income for the first time

in several years. She has been living at Peoria Housing Authority for nearly five years and is an excellent tenant.

THE FSS PROGRAM (FSS)

FSS is a five-year, goal-setting program for families and individuals within the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs. This HUD-funded grant program allows two family case managers at PHA to assist families with goal achievement, educational attainment, employment and earned income opportunities, homeownership, and credit repair/financial stability. Participating families receive case management and referral support. In addition, the housing authority creates a financial escrow account for each family that grows as their earned income increases. Successful graduating families have met their goals set within the program, obtained and maintained suitable employment, and receive the saved escrow amount from their time on the program. Below are two success stories:

Tatum McCullum is a current participant in the Housing Choice Voucher Program being served by the FSS program. She is a part-time student at Midstate College and also works as a part-time dietetic aid, while parenting two rambunctious boys. Upon completing her Medical Office Assistant courses, Tatum plans to continue school for additional certifications within the medical field.

Denise Alexander is a participant in the Public Housing Program being served by the FSS Program. She has received her Bachelor's of Business Administration, Bachelor's of Health Care Administration and an Associate's Degree in Business Management from Midstate College while being the primary caretaker for her mother who has been dealing with severe health issues.