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The WAGE Center, 200 Green St., Albany, NY 12202  
(518) 380-5600

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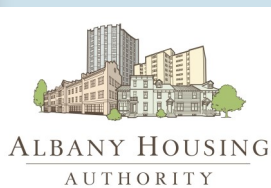
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### VISIT US ONLINE

WAGE Center website:

[wagecenters.com](http://wagecenters.com)



## Five 2017 FSS Graduates Buy Houses



Homeownership is the ultimate dream of many participants of the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program. Valrie Alexander, Jarin Cruz, Kendra McCalmon, Luis Sotomayor, and Shaquoia Ruffin all achieved that dream in 2017.

Everyone's path to homeownership is different, but by earning escrow in the FSS program through increased wages, money can be set aside during the five year program to use as a down payment. While working with a case manager at the WAGE Center, goals are set surrounding credit repair, qualifying for mortgages and using other available

grant and money matching vehicles if homeownership is a goal.

There are many resources in the Capital Region to help homebuyers achieve their dreams. Once an FSS participant begins to escrow money through earning more, it's time to start budgeting and planning for the future, whether for a home, a car, or other goal related things such as computers for educational support, etc. For more information on how to make the most of your escrow money and plan for goal achievement, make an appointment with FSS Manager, **Wendy** at **(518) 380-5601**.

## WENDY'S WISDOM

Wendy Colon is the WAGE Center FSS Manager. In this issue she shares **3 Things Successful FSS Participants Do:**

- Focus on goals and budgeting
- Ask for help and be an active participant
- Get a new job, upgrade your current job

Let us help you with a refreshed resume, come to application clinics, take advantage of workshops to upgrade your skills and knowledge. Use the Adult Education program to get a GED or get tutoring to help with a difficult class.

If you're not employed, you should send out 5 resumes/applications every day. Make getting a job your daily job.

COME SEE US AT  
THE HOUSING FAIR

SATURDAY, APRIL 14  
10-2

AT THE ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY

## How to make FSS Work for you

From New Homeowner, Shaquoia Ruffin, “to families coming into the program, I would say to take it seriously. This is an opportunity to better your life and circumstances with an added incentive at the end. Don't just write down minor goals to accomplish, really think about what it is you want to do or where you want to be in 5 years. Passing my nursing boards, becoming financially independent and owning a home were my goals. Figure out your goals, come up with a plan to achieve them, and make it reality! I feel that I was successful because I had a plan, and I was focused!”

*“It starts from your way of thinking”*

*~Domestic Violence Case Manager and former Section 8 recipient, Felicia*



FSS Participant, Vernell Wilson has taken advantage of the WAGE Center's adult education tutoring program to help her get her Associate's Degree and become employed full-time in Human Services. She says, “I don't know why more people don't take advantage of the opportunities available.”

*What are your goals? How can we help? Stop in or call today to put your plan into action.*

### **New at the WAGE Center**

**Application clinics** on Mondays and Tuesdays provide an opportunity for one-on-one help with finding and completing online applications. Get assistance finding applications for a job in your desired field of work. We will show you how to download and upload your resume from your email.

#### ***Don't have a resume?***

We will help you develop one.

#### ***Don't have email?***

We can help you set up and use an account.

**Mondays: 8:30-12:00 & 1:00-4:30**

**Tuesdays: 1:00-4:30**



From left to right, Receptionist, Tricia, Kneeling: Social Work Interns, Amibel, Jackie and Eden and FSS Manager, Wendy (standing on right).

Amibel, Jackie and Eden are here to help with applications and job searching on Mondays and Tuesday as part of Application Clinics.

### **WORKSHOPS AT THE WAGE CENTER**

#### ◆ iPhone and Android

Use our free WiFi to learn how to use the features of your smartphone.

Tuesday, 2/27 1-3

#### ◆ Uber/Lyft

Learn how to use your smartphone and car to earn money!

Tuesday, 3/6 1-3