NEWSLETTER

July 2024

# **ALBANY HOUSING AUTHORITY**



#### ALBANY HOUSING

#### AUTHORITY

### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Residents,

With the arrival of summer's warmth and the imminent start of the season in just a few weeks, I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. It's a pleasure to greet you through our summer newsletter, a platform that connects us and celebrates our community here at Albany Housing Authority.

Summer in Albany brings an array of opportunities to enjoy the beauty of our surroundings and the camaraderie of our neighbors. Whether it's picnics in the park, community events, or simply enjoying the sunshine from your porch, I encourage each of you to take advantage of the season to connect with your neighbors and make lasting memories. Our team at Albany Housing Authority is dedicated to ensuring that your summer is both enjoyable and comfortable. As always, we remain committed to providing safe, clean, and vibrant communities where every resident can thrive. I urge you to take the contents of this newsletter seriously, and I trust it will furnish you with a wealth of valuable information. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our staff if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions on how we can better serve you. Let's make this summer a season to remember, filled with laughter, warmth, and the joy of community. Together, we can create a summer that reflects the strength and unity of Albany Housing.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer ahead. Congratulations to ALL of 2024 graduates!!

Warm regards, Chiquita D'Arbeau Executive Director



#### TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH



#### >>> WORKING WITH AHA

Are you a General Contractor? Are you a Women's Minority or Business Enterprise Then the Albany Housing Authority (MWBE)? wants to work with you! To learn more about call contracting opportunities the AHA Purchasing Department at 518-641-7500 x 523.

#### WE'RE HIRING! <<<

Find Albany Housing Authority job openings at our Career Central Page. Visit <u>www.albanyhousing.org/employment</u> or scan the QR Code



## AHA RESOURCE CENTER/SUPPORT SERVICES

The AHA Resource Center team is here to assist you! Please visit, email, or call the Albany Housing Authority Resource Center to access these services. The staff will be happy to talk about your needs and provide direct referrals to partner agencies that support you, or through our Albany Housing Authority programs. Programs and supportive services include resource navigation for the following, but are not limited to:

JOB TRAINING · FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES · COMPUTER TRAINING · EDUCATION (GED, TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, COLLEGE) · FINDING CHILD-CARE · FINDING HEALTH CARE AND/OR MEDICAL HELP · AHA FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM · AND MANY MORE!

These supportive services are available to you and your household members as long as you live with Albany Housing Authority. You can use them whenever you need assistance.

AHA RESOURCE CENTER (518) 380-5600 200 GREEN ST. ALBANY, NY 12202 MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM - 4:30 PM EMAIL: RESOURCECENTER@ALBANYHOUSING.ORG



#### **TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH**



#### >>> DID YOU KNOW?

Are you or a family member on an Albany Housing Authority Waiting List? AHA is sending letters to applicants to confirm their continued interest. Letters are sent to the last known address. If your contact information has changed, please update it at <u>AHA's</u> <u>website</u>.

#### REMINDER <

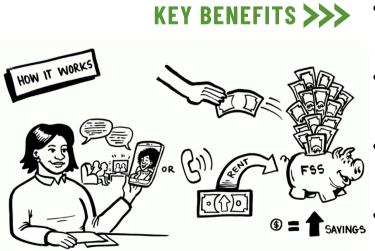
Dogs must be on leashes, regardless of size - at all times. You are required to clean up after your dog. All animals must be approved and registered with the Albany Housing Authority Mgmt Office. Contact your Property Manager with questions. Any household in violation of this policy is subject to lease termination.



### FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM (FSS)

#### >>> WHAT IS IT?

The Family Self-Sufficiency program is a life-changing opportunity that combines education, job training, and personalized support to help you secure stable employment and achieve financial goals. Whether you're aiming for career advancement, homeownership, or debt reduction, FSS is tailored to your unique aspirations.



- <u>Job Training</u>: Acquire new skills and enhance existing ones through specialized training programs to boost your employability.
  - <u>Financial Coaching</u>: Receive expert guidance on budgeting, saving, and smart financial practices to pave the way for longterm success.
  - <u>Education Opportunities</u>: Access educational resources and support to pursue further studies, opening doors to new career possibilities.
- <u>Career Counseling</u>: Benefit from personalized career counseling to align your skills with high-demand industries and secure meaningful employment.

#### HOW DO I JOIN?

Ready to embark on your journey to self-sufficiency? Here's how it works.

- 1. First, complete the <u>FSS Interest Form</u>
- 2.Next, an FSS Coordinator will contact you to schedule you for an upcoming FSS Information Session (please make sure your contact information is current and correct). \*\*Please note – at times, there may be a waitlist for enrolling in FSS\*\*
- 3. Once you have completed the FSS Information Session, you will have the opportunity to meet with an FSS Coordinator one-on-one to enroll in the FSS Program.
- 4. Once enrolled, you will start meeting with your FSS Coordinator to accomplish your goals!



QUESTIONS? Website: www.albanyhousing.org/fss Email: AHAFSS@albanyhousing.org Call: 518-380-5600

#### **FSS TESTIMONIAL**

My name is Akira Marshall, and I was a resident of Ezra Prentice Homes for approximately 10 years. I am an employee of the Albany City School District, a mother of two, a community member, advocate and volunteer. I've served as the grievance chair for my local union, currently hold the title of the Building Representative, worked with the New York State United Teachers union, countless volunteer opportunities with The Red Bookshelf, TruHeart, P.U.L.S.E, Bridge The Gap and serve on the board of the Community Leadership Team.

Working with the FSS Team was an encouraging and incredible experience. Each meeting kept me motivated and accountable to my goals. There were check-ins, often in addition to shared information of resources and/or programs that, AHA's Community Engagement Coordinator, Theresa, thought I could benefit from. Throughout my time, I was finally able to secure homeownership in the South End - which was very important to me because I wanted to continue advocacy for the neighborhood in which I reside because the residents here matter too.

Upon completion of the program I had the pleasure of interacting with Senior FSS Coordinator, Carlos Morazan, who remained super communicative about the process of graduation so there were no missteps. I appreciate everyone and all of the moving parts that allowed me to be successful in this program. I want to see more people like me benefit from it and know that home ownership and the beginning of generational wealth is possible.



From left to right; Carlos M., Akira M., Shayteka K., and Megan W.

#### **TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH**

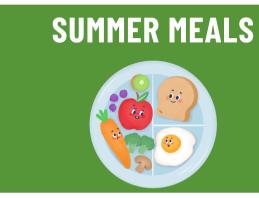


#### **>>>** GET MONEY FOR SCHOOL!

The AHA Scholarship application is open for new and returning students until July 19th. You can complete an application at <u>www.albanyhousing.org/scholarship-submission-form</u> Call the AHA Resource Center with any questions 518-380-5600

#### JULY 8- AUGUST 16TH <<<

Summer Meals for youth are back! Summer meal locations are open to youth up to age 18. No sign-up needed. AHA locations are located at; Capital Woods, Creighton Storey Homes and Ezra Prentice Homes. Meals are served Monday-Friday. Breakfast is served from 9AM-10AM and Lunch is served 12PM-1PM.



### **REIMAGINE STEAMBOAT**

The proposed project, Steamboat Square Revitalization Phase 2, focuses on the rehabilitation and preservation of an historic workforce community in Albany's South End neighborhood. This project is a continuation of the vision to revitalize the entire Steamboat Square campus. Through its emphasis on affordability, sustainability and community engagement, Steamboat Square represents a transformative opportunity for the South End neighborhood.

Your feedback is important for this project to effectively address community needs. This collaboration ensures that the project is relevant and responsive to the priorities of the Steamboat Square community.



WWW.REIMAGINESTEAMBOAT.COM/HOME