



Moving To Work A SUCCESS STORY

Below is a thank-you letter from a recent graduate of the Housing Authority's Moving-to-Work program. The mother began the program with an annual salary of \$13,245; upon completion, her annual salary was \$46,340. As her salary increased, so did her savings. The Housing Authority recently gave her an escrow payout of \$20,765, which helped her purchase her first home.



Guidelines Of The MTW Program:

- Provides incentives to families to become economically self-sufficient, reduce program costs and achieve greater cost effectiveness, and to increase housing choice for low-income families.
- Household limited to six years of housing assistance.
- Participants can only spend up to 40% of their income toward their housing costs.
- HACSM will establish an escrow account for families whose rent increase is due to an increase in their earned income.
- Allow MTW families to earn higher escrow amount by removing the income limit caps when calculating escrow.
- 25% of the incremental increase in earned income will be excluded from rent calculation



December 28, 2007

To the Housing Authority:

I have been with the program for 6 years. I would just like to thank you for all your help. I would like you to know what this program has done for my children and me. When I first started the program, I was living in a room and on welfare with my daughter, who was 6 at the time, and my 4 year-old son. They are now 13 and 10. At the time, I had just left my husband and wasn't sure what was going to happen to us.

This program came like a blessing to my family. I was able to get a job at United Airlines and was there for three years. After the 9/11 attacks, United Airlines laid off thousands of employees, and I was one of them. Without this program, I would have ended up on the streets with my kids.

I immediately got a job working for a restoration company called Olympia Restoration. I worked there as a technician for three months and was promoted to a lead shortly after that. I worked there for two and a half years. Thanks to the program, I was able to save some money and take my kids to Disneyland for the first time. I was also able to purchase my first vehicle, a Chevy Tahoe.

There were some hard times along the way, but I was able to overcome them with the help of my case worker Judy Dell'Ara. She always made sure that I was well informed of my responsibilities and was very helpful with any questions I had. She truly made this experience a pleasant one for me. Judy became a good friend and inspired me to succeed in whatever I do in life.

My kids and I would not be where we are today if it weren't for your help. I was able to set goals for myself and accomplish them. Because of the housing program, I was able to provide a home for my children, purchase 2 vehicles, and save money for our future. Being a single parent is hard, but thank to all of you, I am no longer afraid to stand on my own. This program changed our lives. We will be forever grateful to you all.

Sincerely,

The S. Family