



Ocala  
Housing Authority



# RESIDENT SERVICES



Newsletter

July 2021

## Homeownership Programs:

OHA provides first-time homebuyers with an opportunity to purchase a new home through our homeownership program. Staff provides credit and budget counseling and mortgage negotiations on behalf of the homebuyers for the purchase of homes located throughout Marion County.

For more information on becoming a homeowner, please contact:  
Mary Koop at  
(352) 620-3569

# Summer Activities

There will be no summer program this year, however we will have Snow Cone Day with Ocala Police Department in each public housing community on the following dates:



Thursday, July 8th - 5:00 p.m.  
Deer Run

Thursday, July 22nd - 5:00 p.m.  
Pavilion Oaks

Thursday, August 5th - 5:00 p.m.  
Shady Hollow



Ocala Police Department will be on hand to read to the children and give away items to every kid that participates.

For more information, please contact  
Davida Randolph, (352) 369-2235

## In This Issue

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- FSS Program
- Upcoming Events and Information

# The ROSS Corner

**Achieve  
Independence.**



The ROSS program is designed to assist our clients with becoming self-sufficient. It will also equip public housing clients with the tools to become financially stable. The Resident Opportunity Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) program is open to all public housing residents who dream of economic independence. Through

this program residents are linked with community resources with the goal of increasing earned income, reducing the need for public assistance, and making progress toward achieving housing and economic self-sufficiency.

If you are interested in the ROSS program, please contact Angela at (352) 369-2361 or [Ajuaristic@ocalahousing.org](mailto:Ajuaristic@ocalahousing.org).

# The FSS Corner

Helping Families in our Community achieve Self Sufficiency.

Where do you imagine yourself in 5 years? A new job? A finished degree? Moving towards homeownership? The Family Self-Sufficiency Program is a 5-year work and savings program for families receiving housing assistance.

Working with the FSS Coordinator, Sheryvone Thomas, program participants set long-term and short-term goals to increase their ability to earn a higher income and move toward self-sufficiency.

Participants in the FSS program can earn higher education and training, build a savings account, buy a reliable vehicle, secure new work, and more! We can help you identify obstacles, set targets, and move closer to where you want to be. Want to learn more? Call us today at (352)369-2332, . All Public Housing clients, please contact Mary Kopp at (352) 620-3569.



*ATTENTION ALL  
PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS*

**OCALA HOUSING AUTHORITY**



**THURSDAY  
JULY  
29th**

**RESIDENT  
COUNCIL  
MEETING**

Discussion topics:

- ♦ Election of Resident Council Officers
- ♦ Fall Activities
- ♦ Public Housing Information and much more!

**WE NEED YOU!**

**5:30PM - 6:30PM**

**MEETING WILL BE HELD IN DEER RUN**

**FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED - DOOR PRIZES**

For more information contact Mrs. Davida at  
(352) 369-2235 or [drandolph@ocalahousing.org](mailto:drandolph@ocalahousing.org)





**Ocala Housing Authority has the following job opportunities available:**

**HCV Counselor II  
HCV Intake Specialist  
HCV Housing Inspector/Housing Navigator  
Temporary HCV Clerk**

**For more information, visit our website at:  
[Ocalahousing.org](http://Ocalahousing.org)**

**Click on the Opportunities tab. There you can search under career opportunities for the job you are interested in and how to apply.**



**Ocala**  
Housing Authority

**Coming Soon**  
**18th Annual**

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

**BASH**

**DRIVE THRU ONLY**

**PARTICIPANTS CANNOT GET OUT OF THEIR CARS**  
**NO WALK UPS ALLOWED!**

**Saturday, July 31, 2021 ~ 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**Friends Recycling Center, 2350 N.W. 27th Ave.**

**FREE BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES**  
**PLUS A FREE MEAL FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN**  
**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!**

**CHILDREN **MUST** BE IN THE CAR TO RECEIVE**  
**BACKPACK—NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**For more information, to donate supplies or sponsorship opportunities,**  
**please call (352) 438-5993 or (352) 509-9279**

**Sponsored by Marion County Children's Alliance, Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc.**  
**and the City of Ocala in partnership with Marion County Public School System**

# WERE YOU AFFECTED BY COVID AND NEED HELP? APPLY NOW!



## GET HELP TODAY!

ARE YOU OR A LOVED ONE HAVING TROUBLE PAYING FOR YOUR **RENT** OR **UTILITIES** DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

The United Way of Marion County COVID Assistance Program (CAP) can provide assistance toward rent or utility payments for eligible households.

Residents are encouraged to apply beginning April 1, 2021, and will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Funds are required to be distributed by December 30, 2021.

*Assistance is available for financial obligations incurred after March 2020\**

**VISIT [UWMC.ORG/CAP](http://UWMC.ORG/CAP)**

### CAP Qualifications:

-  Marion County Resident
-  At or below 80% of the average median income
-  Experienced hardship due to COVID-19
-  Valid form of ID
-  Apply online at [www.uwmc.org/CAP](http://www.uwmc.org/CAP)

Seeking access to a computer or assistance accessing the application? Call 2-1-1



**CALL | TEXT | CHAT**  
VISIT [WWW.UWMC.ORG/211](http://WWW.UWMC.ORG/211)

# Stay Connected

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program -  
Helping people stay connected during the  
COVID-19 pandemic



The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is administered by USAC with oversight from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

## What is the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program?

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is a [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\) program](#)  that provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households. If your household is [eligible](#), you can receive:

- Up to a \$50/month discount on your broadband service and associated equipment rentals
- Up to a \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per household.

### Qualifications for this program:

Your household qualifies for the Emergency Broadband Benefit if it has an income at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines **OR** any member of the household:

- Qualifies for Lifeline benefits through participation in SNAP, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Federal Public Housing Assistance, or Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit;
- Participates in one of several **Tribal specific programs**: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal Head Start (only households meeting the relevant income qualifying standard), Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020 with a total household income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers;
- Received a federal Pell Grant in the current award year;
- Received approval for benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program, and that provider received FCC approval for its eligibility verification process.

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per household. Program rules acknowledge there may be more than one eligible household residing at the same address.

# *Resident Services Department Contact Information*



## ***Dr. Gwendolyn B. Dawson***

Chief Executive Officer  
Gdawson@ocalahousing.org

## ***Davida Randolph***

Resident Services Manager  
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## ***Sheryvone Thomas***

FSS Coordinator  
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## ***Angela Jurastic***

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## ***Mary Kopp***

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