

VIBRANT RRHA

Fall 2022/Winter 2023 Newsletter

CEO Corner

As the new permanent CEO of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, I want you to know I am committed to making our communities safe for families to grow and prosper.

My goal is to engage families and deepen my understanding of what RRHA can do to better assist you on your road to growth and development. I view our relationship as a partnership. And along with making meaningful connections with residents, I am also looking to establish public and private business partnerships to ensure resources for you to acquire the education, skills, and fundamentals that will lead to self-sufficiency. My focus in all my work is on helping families be healthy and whole.

In my short time here, I have made it my business to come to as many community events and meetings as my schedule allows, to meet and greet as many residents and staff as possible. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you soon. Not only am I a product of public housing, but I also grew up on welfare. For me, this is not just a job but a mission and a calling to serve. I am looking forward to great things for the residents, the city of Richmond, and the region. **Let's get started!**

Steven B. Nesmith
RRHA CEO



HOPE, JOBS & SECURITY INITIATIVE

Our #1 goal for 2023 is to give all our residents a sense of safety and opportunity. The Hope, Jobs & Security package will be our vehicle for doing just that.



Hope

We'll bring in programs to address residents' mental and emotional challenges and instill pride in our families.



Jobs

We'll create more job training, second chance job opportunities, mentor/mentee programs, and educational opportunities for growth and advancement.



Security

We'll bring back community policing and a security force to give residents peace of mind.

Too many families feel trapped in negative situations. We're working to make all our communities places where children can play safely outside and where you will always feel a sense of opportunity and support.



Tune in on the first Monday! Mr. Nesmith is a regular guest on the Gary Flowers Show on Rejoice! WREJ (101.3 FM | 990 AM) where he discusses RRHA events and issues.

Rent Repayment Plans

GETTING BACK
ON TRACK



If you find yourself behind on rent, make an appointment with your property manager to explore your options and sign up for a repayment agreement.

A repayment agreement allows you to pay either 10 percent of your household's monthly adjusted income or \$10—which ever is greater—toward repayment each month. In this way you can come current on your rent while still managing your budget.

We are committed to the security and wellbeing of our households, and we're eager to help your family create a new path to stability.

Learn more at:
rrha.info/lease-enforcement

Please note that the Virginia's Rent Relief Program (RRP) ended in October: rrha.info/dhcd



RRHA CEO Mr. Nesmith has jumped feet first into community involvement. You might have seen him at RRHA events like J&G Workforce's "Don't Blow the VIBE Pick It Up!" clean-up, or at important area events like the 9/18 "Stop Killing Our Kids" march and rally.



We had a great time at RRHA's Employee Appreciation Cookout in October. There was plenty of trash talking, fun and games, music, good food, even a little line dancing! (Shout out to Garfield's catering and Nate Stallings "Fish Man") We work hard, and we showed we know how to play hard!

Scholarship Opportunities for Public Housing Students



Hey, graduating seniors—did you know there are scholarships specifically for public housing students? You know you've had many challenges to overcome, and we're determined to help match those challenges with opportunities. College can be your springboard to countless opportunities. Which will you take?

All the following scholarships are open for application NOW or in a few short weeks. For 2023 graduating seniors living in RRHA Big Six public housing communities and voucher communities:



Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (PHADA)
Due January 27, 2023



VA Association of Housing & Community Development Officials (VAHRCDO)
Due March 2023



Housing Authority Insurance (HAI)
Opens February 6, 2023



Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBC)
Due April 2023

Get started now!
rrha.com/residents/scholarships



REBUILD GILPIN EVENT

February 11, 2023

Sessions at 10 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM
Calhoun Center

Planning has started for redeveloping the Gilpin Court community. Gilpin residents, please attend any one of the workshop sessions to learn the plan, share feedback on recreational spaces, and find out how you can be prepared for the change.

BE THE BLUEPRINT FOR YOUR SUCCESS!

View event details at:
rrha.info/jwcp223

JACKSON WARD
COMMUNITY PLAN



At the November workshops, in lively discussions and interactive stations, we confirmed plan strategies, discussed design options for the site, and reviewed the next steps for drafting the formal plan.

GETTING Self-sufficient

We're happy to announce that RRHA's team was selected for a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) grant for FY 2023. The goal of the FSS program is to increase economic opportunity for you, our residents.

In this program, you identify your goals, and a FSS coordinator helps coordinate services and coaching that will help you achieve them. You can also earn money, which is kept in a savings account and then given to you when you reach your goals.

Our program currently serves 96 families, and the new grant will let us expand our capacity!

What are your own goals? Get an associates degree? Learn how to budget? Become a homeowner?

Learn more at rrha.info/fss

and contact Marcella to join the program waitlist!

Marcella Tazewell, RRHA Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator
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FSS SUCCESS STORY

Our most recent graduate met all their goals in their 5 years of participation. They now:

- **Have a credit score of 731**
- **Have a driver's license**
- **Have earned an associates degree in criminal justice**
- **Are welfare-free**
- **Have earned an escrow disbursement of over \$5,000**

They reached these achievements through self discipline, trusting the process while in the program, and working with some of our chosen providers.

Read more success stories at:
rrha.info/fss-story



VISIT
rrha.com/calendar
for upcoming events



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