

Rochester Housing Authority **times**

Changing Seasons

As we head into fall...

I hope you all have been well and enjoyed our wonderful Rochester summer! I'm happy to share a few items of importance and interest with you in this newsletter.

I'm extremely proud of our staff who continue to provide quality services to our residents and program participants despite the many challenges due to vacant positions across RHA. Our HR department is working tirelessly trying to fill these positions which is very important to us all.

I am also very proud that our staff continues to be involved in critical community projects, forums, and discussions and I appreciate and commend their efforts in representing RHA.

We continue to look for community partners to provide services for our residents and program participants, such as our partnership with Trillium's COVID testing/Primary Care services, The Witness Project, and as booster clinics coordinated with the Health Dept. We continue searching for more resources that can be provided.

The RHA team has done a great job implementing Emergency Housing Vouchers and continues to assist those looking for units. Of the 117 Emergency Vouchers issued by HUD as a result of the RESCUE plan, 114 have been issued to date.

I am actively participating in the "Peer Cities Challenge" which connects various cities to learn what is working/not working regarding the housing needs of each of our communities. Rochester was one of the Cities selected to participate.

RHA was one of 9 Public Housing Authorities across the country selected to participate in HUD's Community Choice Demonstration. The RHA team has been working very hard on its development and we will be announcing the "launch date" very soon!

As we finish our physical needs assessments and environmental testing on our public housing properties, we will be creating a priority list and pipeline of projects while developing strategies for long term preservation to ensure this vital housing remains affordable forever. We currently have many projects in our development and capital fund pipelines.

Sending my best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Fall (and mild winter) to you all.

Shawn Burr, Executive Director



Executive Briefings

**Administration
Headquarters**
675 W. Main St.,
Rochester, NY 14611

585-967-3600
**Application
Processing Center**
270 Lake Ave.,

Rochester, NY 14608
585-697-7180
**Resident Services
Center**



ROCHESTER
Housing Authority

“Our Human Resources department continues to implement our strategic plan goal to “Foster an inclusive and supportive work environment to Increase morale among staff and residents by building community through participation in social events.”

To that end, here are some of the highlighted events and celebrations we provided:

- hosted an Employment Appreciation Day
- held recruitment job fairs at SUNY Brockport, Nazareth College, and St. John Fisher
- collaborated with Brown & Brown for its webinar “Empathy in the Workplace”
- participated in the United Way’s volunteer Day of Caring
- hosted a fun Ice Cream Social, thanks to LuGia’s Ice Cream, and a great employee event at Radio Social
- recognized Ebony Smart as our June Healthy Hero, part of our Wellness Initiatives. Ebony is Housing Specialist in our Leasing Operations Department.

Many of our employees continue to take advantage of our programs through our Compliance, Diversity, and Inclusion.

We want to do whatever we can for the ongoing physical and mental health and well-being of our residents and employees.

- For tenants who may be behind in their rent, the city and county continue to issue funds through the EPPI-2.0 program.
- We know that COVID variants are rapidly changing. We want to assure you that we are continuing to facilitate resident needs around COVID vaccinations, testing, and education. Monroe County Health Department booster clinics are ongoing, at least 10 residents at each site are required to do a clinic. Next clinic will be held at Gannt Estates and Glenwood Gardens.
- A healthy diet and staying active also promotes overall wellness. We held remote nutrition lessons thanks to Cornell Cooperative Extension, as well as bi-weekly

dance lessons, enjoyed by a number of our staff.

- We hosted a joyful Holi Festival, a popular ancient Hindu celebration.
- More than 400,000 Rochester residents are considered to have Limited English Proficiency (LEP). So, approximately 16.1% of the population in Rochester may face significant language barriers to access City services or programs. RHA is sensitive to the needs of our applicants, participants and residents who are LEP individuals. We value diversity and are committed to providing equal opportunity in our outreach practices and decisions. The Compliance, Diversity and Inclusion office will be working with RHA’s Language Access Liaisons and other key individuals to implement a Language Access Plan and meet a consistent standard for language accessibility.
- Our Juneteenth African American Soul Food Fest celebration was a big hit. Thanks to Jamaican Soul restaurant, 100 employees enjoyed a meal of dirty rice, ribs, fried and jerk chicken, collard greens, baked mac and cheese and sweet cornbread.



Save on Your Internet Bill!

The Federal **Affordable Connectivity Program** is a government program to make internet access more affordable for qualified, low-income households. If you currently have internet service, applying for the Federal subsidy is easy! Once you are approved to receive it, your internet provider will simply reduce your bill by \$30 per month! Visit www.rochesterhousing.org

The Rochester Housing Authority will be sending out postcards to each resident and participant with even more information very shortly. Be on the lookout!



Family Self-Sufficiency Program Update

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) is a voluntary employment and savings incentive program designed to assist families in becoming economically independent and self-sufficient.

Some of the benefits include: obtaining the education or training you need to make a living wage, case management and support services, receipt of an escrow check upon successful completion of your contract becoming a homeowner, and pride in achieving your goals! An FSS Program Specialist can work with you to identify and solve the issues that keep you from reaching your dreams.

There have been 236 participants who have benefited from this program. The 17 graduates in 2021 earned a combined \$88,000 in escrow savings. Next enrollment period is this October. If you're interested in learning more, contact your Resident Services Department at 585-232-1112.

Speaking of Money...

Rochester Housing Authority works together with the **Rochester Financial Empowerment Center** for FREE financial education. Do you need help with improving your credit score? Not sure where to start when it comes to paying down your debt? Confused by all the bank accounts out there? The Rochester Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) provides free, professional one-on-one financial counseling as a public service without restrictions.



**Rochester
Financial
Empowerment
Center**

*Free One-on-One
Financial Counseling*





Homeownership

When owning a home may seem a far-removed reality, we are working hard to make this an option available to residents and program participants through our **Homeownership Program**. We have had five families close on their home this year, five others have offers in process, and 29 have been financially approved and are in the home search process. Congratulations to them all!

Rather than using a voucher subsidy for rental assistance, the RHA Homeownership Program provides the opportunity for existing voucher holders to use their subsidy to purchase a home and pay for monthly homeownership expenses. We also have a financial education requirement through the City of Rochester's Financial Empowerment Center.

To ensure the best possible outcomes for our participants, we couple the voucher program with our goal-oriented Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. In the last five years, we have enrolled 87 families who have purchased homes in the City of Rochester, Brockport, Churchville, East Irondequoit, Gates, Greece, and Henrietta.

RHA will make monthly mortgage assistance payments on behalf of the family. Like the rental program, the amount of this assistance is based on the family's income. RHA does not cover down payment or closing costs.

To qualify for the RHA's Homeownership Program, see the general requirements here: <https://www.rochesterhousing.org/homeownership-program>

Job Openings



Administrative Assistant

Business Analyst

Chief of Maintenance

Clerk I

Clerk II/Bilingual

Clerk III Typing

Clerk III/Typing/Bilingual

Computer Communications Technician

Consultant I

Director of Development and Capital Projects

HVAC Mechanic

Housing Specialist

Human Resources

Human Services Specialist

IT Call Center Analyst

Jr. Accountant

Mail Room Clerk

Maintenance Laborer

Maintenance Mechanic

Property Manager

Sr. Account Clerk

Sr. Housing Specialist

Sr. Maintenance Mechanic

Sr. Maintenance Mechanic – Electrical

Sr. Property Rehabilitation Specialist

Capital Projects



Kennedy Tower Hallway Rehab

We are nearing completion of the interior units and hallway renovations. All units will have new appliances, flooring, kitchens, smoke alarms, lights, and paint.



Danforth Towers East and West Facade Repair

The project is about 35% complete. The crew is removing old caulk, cracked mortar joints and concrete. They will be replacing the caulk with new, filling any cracks, joints, repairing concrete, washing the building down and applying sealant over all masonry.



596 Glenwood Rehab

We are 98% completed with new bathroom vanity, floor, grab bars, tub surround, and toilet. We are installing new kitchen cabinets, lights, smoke/CO detectors, flooring, electric stove, new windows and baseboard heating, and adding new drywall and paint in every room.

Maintenance Requests

If you have a non-emergency request, please fill out the form found here: <https://www.rochesterhousing.org/forms/maintenance-request>.

All work orders will be addressed in 1-5 business days. If you are a Voucher Holder or Shelter Plus Care participant, please contact your Housing Specialist at (585) 697-6105 to request an HQS Inspection.

For emergency requests only, please call (585) 464-9600.

