



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:
Angela Jones, Public Information Officer
(916) 440-1355, or (916) 919-3090
www.shra.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOUSING AUTHORITY CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENT FOR PEOPLE WHO WORKED THEIR WAY OUT OF RENT-ASSISTED HOUSING *Program helps participants build escrow account that can be used to buy a home*

Sacramento, CA. July 22, 2006 - Officials from the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development Sacramento field office today recognized more than 20 graduates at the First Annual Family Self-Sufficiency Celebration of Success event under a federal program administered by the Housing Authority that helps low income people work their way out of rent-assisted housing.

“We’re really proud of the success that many people have had in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program and we’re glad that we’re able to help people achieve their goals,” said Director of Housing Operations La Shelle Dozier.

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) assists motivated individuals and families in the Housing Choice Voucher (formerly Section 8) and Public Housing/Conventional Housing programs to become economically independent and self-sufficient and reduce their dependence on public assistance by working together to overcome barriers, build self-esteem, and establish and attain goals. The Housing Authority began participating in the FSS program when HUD implemented it in 1993. Since that time, 60 housing program participants have completed the program, including 21 graduates who were honored today at the First Annual Celebration of Success held at the College Greens Swim and Racquet Club in Sacramento.

The key element of the program is to establish an escrow account for participants when they sign a five-year contract as an incentive to work towards identified self-sufficiency goals. As their income increases, the difference between their previous rent and their new income-adjusted rent is deposited into an interest bearing checking account. Successful participants receive a check at the end of the five-year program. Some of them have used the savings to buy reliable transportation to get back and forth to work. Dennis Lomack found himself homeless after moving to California from North Carolina. He says the key to his success in the program was to keep the commitment he made to see it through to the end. “You have to have integrity if you sign up for this program,” said Lomack. “It’s not easy and they will have criteria that you have to follow. When someone gives you the opportunity to move forward in life, don’t be content and say this is enough. Don’t be content with what you have.”

Lorraine Richards’ goal was to increase her earnings so she could obtain a home. “So I worked on that and within a couple of years I tripled my income and reached a point where I no longer needed housing assistance,” said Richards. “These people are here to help us meet our goals and attain a home and live the American dream.”

SHRA (www.shra.org) is a Joint Powers Authority created by the City and County of Sacramento to represent both jurisdictions for affordable housing and community redevelopment needs. The Agency is the leading public developer of affordable housing and oversees residential and commercial revitalization activities in 14 redevelopment areas throughout the City and County. SHRA has a FY 2006 budget of \$227 million and approximately 308 employees. The Agency owns and manages 3,400 units of public housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers approximately 11,000 rental assisted vouchers per month.



(L-R) Aneba Fuse, Dennis Lomack, Lyla Moss and Marie Pree received Certificates of Achievement for successfully completing the Housing Authority’s Family Self-Sufficiency program. They are among 60 individuals who have worked their way out of assisted rental housing since the program began in 1993.



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:
Angela Jones, Public Information Officer
(916) 440-1355, or (916) 919-3090
www.shra.org

SHRA (www.shra.org) is a Joint Powers Authority created by the City and County of Sacramento to represent both jurisdictions for affordable housing and community redevelopment needs. The Agency is the leading public developer of affordable housing and oversees residential and commercial revitalization activities in 14 redevelopment areas throughout the City and County. SHRA has a FY 2006 budget of \$227 million and approximately 308 employees. The Agency owns and manages 3,400 units of public housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers approximately 11,000 rental assisted vouchers per month.

"One Community, One Vision"
630 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 444-9210 phone (916) 441-1197 fax