



Housing Highlights

What is a VASH Voucher?

HUD recently accepted applications from housing authorities requesting Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers. VASH Vouchers are specifically for Veterans who are homeless. The Johnson County Housing Authority looked into the requirements for this type of voucher, as we wanted to assist in serving those who have served us. In order to apply for VASH Vouchers, the housing authority has to partner with a local Veterans Affairs (VA) office who is willing to provide a letter of support for the housing authority. The local VA is able to do this if there is a sufficient homeless Veteran population in the area which is determined from doing a Point In Time count at the local homeless shelters. Because Johnson County does not have the homeless Veteran population needed to receive this support, the housing authority was not able to apply for VASH Vouchers at this time. The Johnson County Housing Authority is able to serve the homeless Veteran population by receiving ported VASH vouchers from other housing authorities. This means that if a Veteran with a VASH Voucher in another jurisdiction wishes to move to the Johnson County Housing Authority jurisdiction, they can while using the voucher issued by another agency. The Johnson County Housing Authority has received multiple ported VASH Vouchers which have already leased up in the Johnson County Housing Authority jurisdiction. We look forward to serving even more Veterans.

Landlord Meeting

The next landlord meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 from 9am to approximately 12pm. We are excited to host guest speakers from the Department of Health and Environment and Fair Housing. There will be time for questions and answers at the end.

March 7, 2018 at 9:00am
Johnson County Housing Authority
12425 W. 87th St Pkwy
Lenexa, KS 66215

Light snacks and refreshments provided.



Did you know?

While the economy continues to improve, it can be hard to believe that affordable housing is still disappearing at an alarming rate. Research shows that housing continues to burden many lower income families in our area and throughout the entire country. No state has rents that are affordable at minimum wage. Additionally, only 12 counties in the entire United States have rents that are affordable with this level of income, none of which are located in Kansas. HUD has defined affordable as 30% of a household's gross income going toward rent and utilities. To afford a two-bedroom rental home, an individual would need to make \$21.21 per hour at 40 hours a week according to the nationwide average Fair Market Rate. Though Kansas is lower than the national average at \$15.59 per hour, full time, for a two-bedroom rental home, it still creates a heavy burden for many lower income families. At the current minimum wage in Kansas of \$7.25 per hour, a renter would need to work 86 hours per week to avoid becoming burdened with a two-bedroom unit. Without delving too deep into all the data the case is easily made for additional affordable housing.

Family Self Sufficiency

On December 19, 2017, the Johnson County Housing Authority recognized 5 graduates of the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program. The FSS program is a voluntary, goal based, program that helps lead families towards becoming less dependent on public assistance and more self-sufficient. Each year the families that have achieved their goals and successfully graduated the FSS program are recognized in an annual graduation ceremony/family holiday party. We would like to congratulate each graduate on a job well done.



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Our Mission is.....

“ Providing essential human services as a safety net, targeting older adults, people with a disability, and low-income families, in order to support independence, dignity, and self sufficiency. “

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Director:
David Ward (913) 715-6601

Deputy Director:
Jesse Mofle (913) 715-6602

Program Supervisor:
Jerome Franks (913) 715-6603

Receptionist:
Jerlinda Harris (913) 715-6600

Occupancy Specialists:
Lesia Lewis (913)715-6608
Kim Randle (913)715-6610
Adrienne Silvers (913)715-6611
Molly Guinto (913)715-6609
Shannon Ausmer (913)715-6619
Gwen Green (913)715-6657

Inspectors:
Annette Wells (913)715-6607
Greg Kessell (913)715-6606

Intake Specialists:
Kimberly Nuessen (913)715-6604
Racheal Wood (913)715-6605

Direct Deposit Dates

January 4, 2018
February 2, 2018
March 2, 2018
April 2, 2018
May 2, 2018
June 4, 2018
July 2, 2018
August 3, 2018
September 3, 2018
October 1, 2018
November 2, 2018
December 3, 2018
January 4, 2019

Save the following as an email contact to receive all notifications:

osc@oscmil.jocogov.org

Dear Landlords,

We welcome all new landlords who joined our program in 2017. We offer these top 5 tips!

1. Do not allow a voucher holder to move into a unit until an Occupancy Specialist has confirmed with you.
2. Send a copy of all notices to the Housing Authority by email, fax, or mail.
3. Walk units before the initial inspection.
4. Enforce leases like you would for a market tenant.
5. When in doubt, ask!

We thank all of our landlords for partnering with us to help serve low-income families in Johnson County. Because of you, this program is made possible. Happy New Year to all.

Sincerely,

The Johnson County Housing Authority