



Section 8 Voucher
Participant Newsletter
Spring 2006



Hello from the staff of Linn-Benton Housing Authority. Section 8 Rental Assistance is intended to help your family be self sufficient. We recognize that the program can be complicated and confusing at times. This Newsletter contains information to help you meet your family obligations under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program.

REPORT FAMILY CHANGES TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Nothing stays the same for very long and certainly our living situations change throughout the year. The Section 8 **HCV**oucher Program requires that you (the participant family) inform the Linn-Benton Housing Authority *in writing* (**within 10 days**) when changes occur within your household such as income amount, income source, someone moves out, a baby is born, you have someone that you would like to move in with you or various other changes that may occur.

Housing Authority RESPONSE to REPORTED CHANGES in your Household

When you report a change in writing to Linn-Benton Housing Authority you will receive a response back in writing from your Occupancy Specialist. **PLEASE NOTE** that if you do not receive a response back from The Housing Authority then we likely have not received your report of changes and you will need to speak to your Occupancy Specialist right away.

Take a look at our new website

www.l-bha.org

- Answers to questions
- Program requirements
- Links to other service agencies
- Download Forms

DO NOT LOSE YOUR ASSISTANCE

The Linn-Benton Housing Authority staff will assist you in maintaining your Section 8 **HCV**oucher for as long as you and your family need the assistance. However, an average of 30 families each month lose their Section 8 Vouchers. Some are required to repay money and can face legal prosecution. Some of the reasons families lose their assistance include:

- Not responding to requests for paperwork, etc. from Occupancy Specialist by deadlines
- Not keeping Inspection appointments
- Moving and leaving unit in dirty and damaged condition
- Not reporting Family changes such as income or providing false and misleading information (*see section on response to reported changes*)
- Allowing people to live in the assisted unit without first getting approval from the Housing Authority
- Drug related/Criminal activity by any family member or guest
- Not paying Utility bills causing Utilities to be disconnected

Please help us to preserve your Housing Assistance by cooperating with requests and fulfill your requirements for keeping your Section 8 rental assistance in good standing.

IS THERE A METH (DRUG) LAB IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Methamphetamine (meth) is a highly addictive drug that creates a long-lasting high. Meth has toxic effects that lead to permanent damage of the brain and other vital organs and can cause seizures, strokes, and even death.

IMPORTANT: If you suspect a meth lab, call your local sheriff's office or police department.

You may get more information about meth by going to the state website:

www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/druglab. You may also visit the Linn county sheriff's site at: www.co.linn.or.us/Sheriff/MethMakeover.htm

How to contact your Occupancy Specialist

SEC. 8 OCCUPANCY SPECIALISTS

Carolyn Eisele	A – Ch	918-7303
Rochelle Coulter	Ci – Gak	918-7328
Jennifer Sanders	Gal – Ha	918-7330
Kim Seiber	He – Maj	918-7302
Julie Gasperino	Mak – Nun	918-7316
Judy Stutzman	Nus – Ra	918-7312
Jessica Westcott	Re – Ste	918-7315
Tawny Clark	Sti – Z	918-7323
Wendy Younger	FSS & VIDA	918-7317
Anna Benson	FSS & VIDA	918-7313
(Tawny Clark MOD REHAB 918-7323)		



NOTE: Because of the very large caseloads it will be necessary that you call ahead to make an appointment when you need to see your Occupancy Specialist. This will help us serve you better.

Valley Individual Development Account Program (VIDA)

VIDA is a matched savings program for people interested in saving for continued education, down payment assistance and small business start-up or expansion.

The savings time can be anywhere from 6 months up to 3 years. Minimum savings amount is \$25 per month. Match rate is a 3 to 1 match. (For every \$25 you save, \$75 is set aside for your goal!)

Some household "earned" income is required to participate in this program. Contact Wendy Younger or Anna Benson for more information about the VIDA Program.

VIDA is offered by other agencies in the community. In order to participate with LBHA's program, you must be a current Section 8 Voucher holder and be willing to participate with the Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

See back of page for FSS information

