



HOUSING AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release:

**The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
awards Boise City/Ada County Housing Authority
\$221,206 for Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator Funding**

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced an award of \$221,206 for Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator funding to the Boise City/Ada County Housing Authority (BCACHA). The funds will allow BCACHA to retain FSS Coordinators on staff to assist participants of BCACHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program to find employment and work toward meeting their potential for self sufficiency. The coordinators link participants to resources in the community that can help with their job search, such as job training opportunities, employment placement programs or local employers. The coordinators also help individuals locate childcare, counseling services, and transportation, which are often times impediments to employment.

Participants sign a contract that stipulates the head of the household will find suitable employment and the family will be off of any welfare assistance within five years. Because Housing Choice Voucher rents are tied to participant income, when income rises, participant rent rises also. With the FSS program, the rent increase is paid by the participant, but the BCACHA matches the participant increase into an interest-bearing escrow account. If the participant successfully graduates from the program, he or she can use the escrow account for a variety of goals, including down payment on a home, starting a business, paying back debts or paying educational expenses.

Executive Director Deanna Watson praised the program and renewal funding stating, "The FSS program is proven to be an effective way of helping those who are capable and motivated to pursue their goals of self sufficiency thereby not just helping themselves but potentially freeing up what once was their assistance so someone else in need can get help."