

The RHA

IN FOCUS

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Making Dreams Come True: The Journey To Homeownership With Community Support

In honor of National Homeownership Month, we celebrate the significance of owning a home and the dedicated individuals and organizations working tirelessly to make this dream a reality. From the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to local Housing Authorities, such as the Rockford Housing Authority, countless people are committed to assisting residents in their journey toward becoming homeowners. This RHA InFocus article highlights their crucial role in helping individuals and families find security and pride in owning a home.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

At the national level, HUD plays a vital role in promoting homeownership. HUD offers various programs and initiatives to provide affordable housing opportunities and support prospective homeowners. From Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans that offer low down payment options to counseling services for first-time homebuyers, HUD provides valuable resources to empower individuals and families on their homeownership journey. In its 87 years, FHA has helped more than 44 million citizens become homeowners.

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***Leading People
Through Lightness
and Darkness***

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Making Dreams Come True: The Journey To Homeownership With Community Support cont.

The Role of Local Housing Authorities

In communities across the country just like Rockford, local Housing Authorities work tirelessly to assist residents in their quest for homeownership. These dedicated organizations understand the importance of stable housing and the sense of security it provides. Agencies such as the Rockford Housing Authority administer programs that include down payment assistance, homebuyer education workshops, and affordable housing initiatives tailored to the unique needs of their communities. We work hand in hand with individuals, guiding them through the complexities of the home-buying process and providing valuable support at every step.

Nonprofit Organizations and Community Partners

Beyond our agency, numerous nonprofit organizations and community partners are pivotal in facilitating homeownership. These critical local organizations collaborate with residents, offering financial literacy programs, credit counseling, and resources for overcoming barriers to homeownership. In addition, they provide guidance on budgeting, credit repair, and mortgage options, ensuring that aspiring homeowners are well-prepared and informed throughout their journey. As a result, these organizations have paved the way for successful homeownership by empowering individuals with knowledge and resources.

Real Estate Professionals and Lenders

Real estate professionals, such as realtors, brokers, and lenders, are essential allies in the pursuit of homeownership in the Rockford community. They possess in-depth knowledge of the local housing market and guide prospective buyers in finding the right home within their budget. Realtors advocate for our residents' interests and negotiate on their behalf, ensuring a smooth and informed home-buying experience. Our Lenders offer mortgage products tailored to individuals' financial situations, making homeownership accessible and achievable.



The Significance of National Homeownership Month: Building Stronger Communities and Fostering Belonging

During National Homeownership Month, we recognize the unwavering dedication of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, local Housing Authorities, nonprofit organizations, community partners, real estate professionals, and lenders. Their commitment to assisting residents in their homeownership journey brings security, stability, and a sense of pride to individuals and families. Through their combined efforts, the dream of homeownership becomes a reality, fostering more robust communities and empowering individuals to build brighter futures.

Let us celebrate and appreciate these remarkable individuals and organizations that champion the cause of homeownership and impact countless Americans' lives. This annual celebration is dedicated to recognizing the importance of owning a home for individuals and the betterment of our community.

The Importance of the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program Administered by the Rockford Housing Authority

Affordable housing is fundamental to a thriving society, ensuring individuals and families access safe and stable homes. The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Homeownership Program, administered by the Rockford Housing Authority, plays a crucial role in this regard by enabling families enrolled in the HCV program to utilize their vouchers to purchase a home and receive ongoing assistance in meeting homeownership expenses.

This RHA InFocus article highlights the importance of the HCV homeownership program, focusing on the Rockford Housing Authority's role in fostering economic empowerment, stability, and upward mobility for low-income families in Rockford.



Administering Economic Empowerment for RHA Residents

RHA's administration of the HCV homeownership program empowers low-income families by providing the opportunity to transition from renting to homeownership. By allowing families to utilize their vouchers to make mortgage payments, RHA facilitates substituting rental fees with homeownership expenses, fostering economic empowerment. The HCV homeownership program is available only to families admitted to the HCV program. To participate in the HCV homeownership program, the HCV family must meet specific income and employment requirements (the employment requirement does not apply to elderly and disabled families), be a first-time homeowner as defined in the regulation, attend, and satisfactorily complete the pre-assistance homeownership and housing counseling program required.

Through the program, families can build equity and assets over time. Mortgage payments contribute toward ownership rather than purely an expense, enabling families to develop a long-term investment that can appreciate, providing financial security and opportunities for wealth creation. RHA's guidance and support in navigating the homeownership process ensure that families can make informed decisions and maximize the program's benefits. RHA's administration of the HCV homeownership program enhances financial stability and creditworthiness for participating families. As families make timely mortgage payments, they establish a positive credit history, improving their creditworthiness and expanding their access to other forms of credit. Increased financial stability for our residents opens doors to further economic opportunities and helps break the cycle of poverty.

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Making Dreams Come True: The Journey To Homeownership With Community Support cont.

Fostering Stability and Community Development

The RHA's administration of the HCV homeownership program significantly contributes to fostering stability for low-income families in Rockford. Stable housing is essential for individuals and families to thrive, providing a secure foundation for personal and professional growth. In addition, by transitioning from rental units to owned homes, families experience the stability of having a place to call their own, reducing the risk of displacement and providing a stable environment for children.

The stability provided by homeownership positively impacts educational outcomes for children. Studies consistently show that stable housing improves educational attainment and reduces school mobility, allowing children to build more robust social networks, establish connections with their communities, and benefit from consistent education. By facilitating homeownership, RHA has supported educational success and positive long-term outcomes for low-income children in the Rockford community. HCV homeownership program also contributes to community development. As families become homeowners, they develop a stronger sense of pride and investment in their neighborhoods. In addition, homeownership promotes community engagement, leading to the creation of safer, more vibrant, and cohesive communities. RHA actively encourages families to participate in local initiatives, take care of their properties, and contribute to the overall well-being of their neighborhoods, thus fostering community development in Rockford.

Facilitating Upward Mobility

The Rockford Housing Authority's administration of the HCV homeownership program catalyzes upward mobility, allowing low-income families to break free from the cycle of poverty and achieve greater socioeconomic progress. By enabling families to invest in homeownership, the RHA opens doors to social and economic opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach.

Homeownership offers the potential for intergenerational wealth transfer. Families owning a home can pass on their assets and wealth to future generations, providing a tangible advantage and setting the stage for increased opportunities. RHA administration of the HCV homeownership program empowers families to create a lasting legacy that can positively impact their children and grandchildren, fostering upward mobility and breaking the cycle of poverty.

Moreover, homeownership offers the potential for home-based entrepreneurship and income generation.



Owning a home provides a foundation for small businesses, such as home daycare services, home offices, or rental properties, which can contribute to additional income streams for low-income families. The stability and flexibility offered by homeownership, with the support and guidance from RHA, has allowed families to explore entrepreneurial endeavors, contributing to their economic well-being and upward mobility.



Enhanced Quality of Life and Well-being in Our Community

The Program has significantly impacted the overall quality of life and well-being of low-income families. Homeownership has provided a stable and safe environment that promotes physical and mental health, improves educational outcomes, and enhances social connections.

By administering the program, the RHA has helped ensure that families have control over their living conditions and can make modifications to suit their specific needs. This control over the physical environment contributes to improved physical and mental well-being. In addition, homeownership reduces stress and provides a sense of security, leading to better overall health, lower healthcare costs, and increased life satisfaction for participating resident families.

Stable housing positively impacts educational outcomes for our children as well. The RHA's management of the program has reduced the stress and uncertainty associated with frequent moves, allowing children to focus on their education. Research has consistently shown that children in stable housing have higher academic achievement, improved school attendance, and increased graduation rates. By providing stable homes to our residents, RHA will continue to invest in the educational success and future prospects of our resident's children.

Additionally, homeownership for our residents promotes social connections and community engagement. This sense of belonging and community connection contributes to improved social support networks, reduced social isolation, and increased overall life satisfaction for participating families.

Financial Benefits and Long-Term Investment

One of the most significant advantages of buying a home is that it allows our residents to build equity over time, which can be utilized for future financial endeavors. Whether upgrading to a larger property, funding education expenses, or launching a business, the equity accrued through homeownership offers a valuable resource. Furthermore, resident homeowners have taken advantage of tax benefits, such as deductions on their mortgage interest and property taxes, providing additional financial relief.

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Making Dreams Come True: The Journey To Homeownership With Community Support cont.



Sense of Belonging and Community Engagement

Homeownership has provided a profound sense of security, stability, and belonging. It has allowed our residents and their family to establish roots, fostering a deep connection to our community. They have actively participated in community engagement, participating in neighborhood associations, and local events. This active involvement has strengthened social bonds, encouraged collaboration, and promoted a sense of unity among RHA residents. In addition, homeownership has offered a stable environment, particularly for families with children, allowing them to establish lasting friendships and educational continuity.

As we celebrate National Homeownership Month, it is vital to recognize the profound impact that homeownership has on individuals and communities alike. The financial benefits, including long-term investment and potential tax advantages, empower individuals to shape their futures. Simultaneously, homeownership plays a crucial role in community stability and economic growth, with increased homeownership leading to job creation and stronger local economies. Moreover, the sense of belonging and community engagement that homeownership fosters is invaluable, creating tight-knit neighborhoods and empowering residents to contribute to their communities actively. Let us embrace the spirit of National Homeownership Month and promote the numerous benefits of owning a home for the betterment of society.

RHA's administration of the HCV program enhances stability, fosters community development, and provides a platform for upward mobility, enabling families to break free from the cycle of poverty and achieve more significant socioeconomic progress. This program impacts their well-being, creates a legacy for future generations, and contributes to developing a more vibrant and thriving Rockford community.

For more information about the RHA Homeownership Program, please visit: <https://launchmyfuture.com/rha-resident-services/homeownership/>





Empowering Residents for Homeownership: The Rockford Housing Authority's Financial Empowerment Course

The Rockford Housing Authority (RHA) is proud to announce its partnership with BMO Bank through a Grant to launch a financial empowerment course for residents of RHA's Low-Income Public Housing. This collaborative project aims to equip residents with the knowledge and tools needed to prepare for future homeownership. By providing essential tips, guidance, and a step-by-step process, we seek to empower residents to become successful homeowners and contribute to the revitalization of our community.

The primary objective of our proposed project is to encourage residents to proactively plan and prepare for homeownership. Through this course, participants will gain the necessary knowledge to navigate the path to successful homeownership. We aim to provide residents with valuable insights, financial readiness strategies, and goal-setting techniques to achieve their dreams of homeownership.

We firmly believe that by partnering with BMO Bank and offering this financial empowerment course, we can make a significant impact on our community's revitalization efforts. This program will introduce underserved populations to homeownership opportunities, promoting stability and restoring hope in the aspirations of homeownership. We anticipate a high level of interest and readiness among our Low-Income Public Housing (LIPH) residents, with many aspiring to purchase their forever homes or explore potential investment opportunities as landlords.

To ensure the success of this program, we have identified a three-step process that will guide residents toward their homeownership goals.

Step 1: Identifying Residents

We will actively identify interested residents through initiatives such as the Family Self-Sufficiency and Resident for Opportunity Self-Sufficiency Programs. Informational sessions in the form of webinars will be conducted to provide an overview of the course and its benefits. RHA Residents will also have the opportunity to engage with the Liforce Development Institute, an RHA Initiative dedicated to Job readiness, personal and financial growth.



Empowering Residents for Homeownership: The Rockford Housing Authority's Financial Empowerment Course Cont.

Step 2: Identifying Barriers

We recognize that various barriers may hinder residents from pursuing homeownership. Through personalized assistance, we will address common obstacles such as poor or bad credit, debt management, and income limitations. Additionally, we will explore strategies to overcome challenges related to down payments, connecting residents with resources and programs designed to support their financial goals.

Step 3: Identifying Needs

To ensure residents are equipped for homeownership, we will focus on two crucial areas: establishing a savings account and securing stable employment. By emphasizing the importance of saving, we will guide participants in developing effective budgeting and savings strategies. Simultaneously, we will collaborate with local employment agencies and provide resources for job readiness, helping residents achieve financial stability.

The Rockford Housing Authority's financial empowerment course, in partnership with BMO Bank, presents an incredible opportunity for LIPH residents to embark on their homeownership journey. By providing knowledge, guidance, and addressing common barriers, we aim to empower participants to achieve their goals. Through this course, we strive to create a thriving community where residents have the confidence, tools, and support necessary to realize their dreams of homeownership. Together, we can build a stronger, more prosperous future for all.





Move To Work Landlord Incentive Program

RHA will be hosting a Landlord Lunch and Learn on Wednesday June 28th. It will be held at Rockford Housing Authority, 223 S. Winnebago St. Rockford IL 61102.

For New Landlords, the lunch and learn will be from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM.

For Existing Landlords, the lunch and learn will be from 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

New Landlord Incentives:

- RHA will offer a one-time payment of up to \$1,000 or equal to one month's rent whichever is lesser to landlords who are new to the housing choice voucher.

Existing Landlords Incentives:

- RHA will offer a \$500 Payment to existing landlords who lease a unit to a housing choice voucher participant.
- The incentive does not apply to those who transfer new units owned by the same landlord.

Limited Damage Claims:

- RHA will offer a one-time payment, not to exceed one month's contract rent or a \$1,000 to the landlord where a housing choice voucher participant's tenancy ends and there is a tenant caused damage to the unit that exceeds the security deposit collected by the owner. ***Restrictions Apply***

Fourth of July

Fireworks, Parades, and Live Entertainment

Rockford Housing Authority recognizing the importance of Independence Day and how the community celebrates as a day of unity to celebrate the nation's birth. As we gather, it is a reminder of this nation's past and how much we have grown in the years.

The RHA offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th and will reopen on Wednesday, July 5th.

Rockford always has an enormous celebration for Independence Day. Here are some events you don't want to miss!

- 2:00 PM road closures begin for the parade as Gramps with Ramps performs at the Joe Marino Statue
- Davis Park opens at 4:00 PM and the parade starts at 4:30 PM featuring motorcycles, Screw City Jeep Club, Patriotic Parade, and more!
- Throughout the rest of the night there will be live music and entertainment at the various downtown parks until 9:15 PM when the entrance to Davis Park closes
- Fireworks begin at 9:30 PM, the firework show will be synced & broadcasted on 103.1 and will be broadcasted on live TV on Fox39.



Jobs Plus Job Fair / Resource Event



The Rockford Housing Authority's Jobs Plus Initiative hosted a community-wide job fair event on May 12, at the RHA Central Office. The event connected job seekers with over 20 local employers who are hiring for a range of positions in different industries. Attendees had the opportunity to meet with recruiters and hiring managers, learn about job openings, and submit their resumes.

The event was a success with many people from the Rockford community attending and our employers coming out to help individuals get started in the workforce. Joan Sage from Comcast stated "This is an opportunity for people to know what jobs are available and have the chance to speak directly to the employers."



This event was not only to help individuals get jobs, but also to know what resources are available to them. Prairie State Legal sheds light on why this event is important for the community; "These kinds of events are important because they give people an opportunity to connect with organizations in a way that is accessible, instead of having people go out the scattered sites, we are taking all the different organizations and putting them in one spot. We are here offering background check services which is a factor many employers take into consideration, so even though we are not offering jobs, there is still a service that can help individuals get on the right track to have a successful career."

The Jobs Plus Program is open to all residents living in RHA Low-Income Public Housing Developments.

The Jobs Plus Initiative is a free initiative aimed to help you gain higher wages and increase your income without increasing your rent – with the goal of reaching a self-sufficient living wage. The initiative will provide an employment specialist that will work one-on-one to help you reach your employment goals. In addition, the Employment Specialist will be able to provide: Employment counseling, employer linkages, job placement, and access to FREE education and training dollars for advancing your education.

Residents enrolled in Jobs Plus Initiative receive the added benefit of being automatically enrolled in the Jobs Plus Earned Income Disregard (JPEID). The JPEID benefits the resident in that it will disregard any income accumulated for up to 48 months after entering the initiative, meaning any earned income from the time of enrollment in Jobs Plus will not count toward your rental certifications.





The benefit for already employed residents comes when their income increases, as the resident will not see an increase in their rental amount if they increase their income. If your whole family enrolls in Job Plus Initiative, any additional income brought into the household will be disregarded and not counted towards your rent calculation. Jobs Plus employment services are tailored to residents' individual needs and help you achieve your employment and general life goals.



The RHA Jobs Plus Leadership Team would like to thank not only our RHA residents and community members who joined us but also our community partners for a successful job fair, we couldn't have done it without your continuous support. We look forward to the next Jobs

Plus event and hope you will join us next time!

Learn more about Jobs Plus here:

<https://launchmyfuture.com/rha-resident-services/jobs-plus-initiative/>



LDI Graduation / Registration

The Spring of 2023 LDI students graduate on June 30th, and finally receive their certificates. RHA and the LDI instructors could not be prouder of their hard work and dedication to this program! Save the Date for June 30th to help celebrate the amazing LDI graduates!

The Rockford Housing Authority proudly supports and recommends the Lifeforce Development Institute's Job/Career Readiness Skills-based Training which is open to the community and RHA residents. The LDI curriculum includes help with the foundational skill gap in the workforce with a 12-week hands-on learning program that covers job/career readiness skills to meet the community's workforce goals.

The LDI instructors strive to help better every students personal, professional, and financial lives. RHA Commissioner, Anisha Grimmertt, stated at a past LDI graduation; "I want you to use your skills to enhance your talents and your career to ultimately make your family and human life better. Its time for action people. Congratulations."

For more information about the program, register for the next cohort, and to hear past LDI graduates journey through the program, please visit:

<https://launchmyfuture.com/ldi/>



Leading People Through Lightness and Darkness

A Reflection of the Journey all of us Took Together

I believe a leadership role is one of the most rewarding roles an individual can take. You get to know people on another level rather than just on the surface. The priority of my team leadership is to engage the right people, at the correct times, to the right degree in their daily work. For me, that engagement starts when I recast the role of the RHA employees rather than just rolling up my sleeves and executing a top-down strategy. Along with my Leadership Team, we engage employees who contribute their imagination, work, and life experience, drawing on the 'right minds at the right time.

Public Housing Agency's traditional management has historically prioritized projects and assigned people to them. However, leaders are only sometimes the source of the idea. I am of the school of thought that says that the people closest to the concept are best equipped to make the call. They are deep in the trenches, see the issues, and see the potential of the highest best good, but only if their personal commitment is to its success! Therefore, our continued efforts are varied yet always strategic.

As I look back since I have taken on the role of CEO, a period of political and economic change, it is remarkable how much we have accomplished. We recognize the value of social well-being and its relationship with physical and psychological well-being. To this end, we work diligently to assist the understanding and empowering of individuals to manage budgets and how best to put their money to work to realize their financial independence and goals. Helping residents gain knowledge about their financial performance is our continued dedication to supporting their growth and success. We strive to use our resources to improve the quality of life for residents while providing affordable housing and opportunities for personal growth. Our staff has crafted or identified creative and innovative ways to continue tracking how our residents interact with us, the human services they need, and the opportunities they have succeeded in and accomplished.

Leading people through the darkest days can be one of the most challenging tasks but also the most rewarding. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a new way of living every day, from lockdowns and social distancing to masks and working remotely. These external forces that threw obstacles in my path challenged me as not only a leader of people but a leader in my agency.

We met and assisted hundreds of residents in need, and when we could not meet our residents face to face, there was anxiety about what we could do to help. Overcoming that uncertainty, my team took charge, listened, and complied with RHA policy, State mandates, and federal guidelines. From working remotely full-time to hybrid work and online meetings, we addressed our resident's issues and concerns.



Once the vaccines became available to the public, the light was at the end of the tunnel. We got back to the office and started doing what we love again; meeting with our residents face-to-face and addressing their needs and concerns. We offered online resources to have our residents let us know if they needed assistance while some of our elderly residents waited on vaccine appointments; we installed kiosks for temperature readings at all facility lobbies and created a dedicated page on our website providing up-to-date information and resources regarding everything COVID-19 related.

As we reflect on our collective journey, I am grateful for our team's dedication, resilience, and creativity. Together, we have overcome challenges, embraced change, and positively impacted the lives of the individuals and families we serve. Our commitment to continuous improvement and unwavering support for our residents will drive us forward.

My Leadership Team was mandated to think both globally applicable and locally leverageable. As a result, one of the many advantages of having diverse talent within our agency is that each person brings a rich array of experiences, ideas, and perspectives to address problems. Amidst the darkness, we found light. I firmly believe in cultivating an inclusive workplace that leverages each individual's unique talents to achieve our organization's vision and mission.

As we move into 2023, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to our mission and vision. Let us continue to prioritize the well-being of our residents, empowering them to achieve their goals and aspirations. Together, we have made a difference in their lives, providing housing, a sense of belonging, support, and opportunity.

I am excited about the future we are building together. The five-year plan we have crafted as a HUD-designated Move to Work agency will propel us further on our path of transformation and innovation. Let us embrace this opportunity to leverage our collective wisdom, expertise, and passion to make an even more significant impact on our community.

In conclusion, I want to express my deep appreciation for your unwavering dedication and hard work. It is through your efforts that we have achieved so much. Our journey has been marked by resilience, compassion, and a shared sense of purpose. I am confident that together, we will continue to write a remarkable success story for RHA and the people we serve.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. Let us move forward with enthusiasm, determination, and a profound belief in our ability to create positive change.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Laura





NOTICE OF MTW LANDLORD INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Rockford Housing Authority has posted the RHA MTW (Move to Work) landlord incentive program which will address:

- 1) New landlord payment incentives
- 2) Allowance of damage claims by landlords
- 3) Increase in the payment standards for the HCV program.

Copies of the MTW LANDLORD INCENTIVE PROGRAM are available for download on our website <https://tinyurl.com/jtrmb5pn> and are also available for public review at the Rockford Housing Authority's Office at 223 S. Winnebago Street, Rockford, IL 61102.



Benefits of Becoming an RHA Landlord

The Rockford Housing Authorities' Housing Choice Voucher Program provides rental assistance for very low and low-income households. The family or individual participants offer rental assistance to private landlords. Program participants are responsible for choosing the type of housing they feel best suits their household. They can select a single-family home, townhouse, or apartment.

Once the participant has chosen their housing unit and the landlord is willing to accept the housing voucher toward the payment of rent, the housing authority will inspect it to ensure that it meets the federal minimum housing quality standards and any local building codes. All rental units must meet minimum standards of health and safety.

RHA pays A housing subsidy to the landlord directly on behalf of the participating family. The family then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount by the program.

To learn more about the RHA Landlord program, please visit:
<https://rockfordha.org/becoming-a-landlord/>



Americas Second Independence Day

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Today, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas, a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics, and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement, and planning for the future.

Rockford Housing Authority pays tribute to the journey; we acknowledge the many roles and contributions of the African American spirit to our society. We embrace the past and the future that only unity, respect, and appreciation can bring.

In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities, and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

Juneteenth is enjoying a phenomenal growth rate within communities and organizations throughout the country. Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum, and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. In recent years, several local and national Juneteenth organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations – all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth in Rockford IL

In Rockford, a Juneteenth Weekend Celebration will be hosted by Juneteenth 1865! Tommy Meeks, President of ICRG (Inner City Reconstruction Group) and Founder of Rockford Juneteenth, states, “Save the Date for Sunday, June 18th & Monday, June 19th, for the 2023 Juneteenth Weekend Celebration located at Sinnissippi Park!”

Tommy Meeks created this event and organization with “the sole mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history. Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. It commemorates June 19th, 1865, when the Union army finally freed the last African-American slaves held in Confederate states. Six months later, the Thirteenth Amendment officially made slavery illegal throughout the “entire” United States. Juneteenth has been observed since 1866. June 18th, 2023, marks the 33rd year of this event and the oldest known celebration in the state of IL.”





Rockford Housing Authority
223 S Winnebago Street
Rockford, IL 61102

Did you know?

RHA Offices will be open on Monday July 3rd, 2023. They will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th 2023, and will open on Wednesday, July 5th 2023 for normal business hours.

Coming in the July issue, an in-depth look at the new RHA MTW (Moving to Work) Designation

