

Orange County Housing Authority The Beacon

January 2020

Family Self-Sufficiency Program Newsletter Orange County Community Housing Corporation



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Free Monthly seminars: Learn how to Prepare for Homeownership.

- Zero Down Payment Programs
- No Private Mortgage Insurance
- Grants Available
- Down Payment Assistance

OCCHC is a HUD approved Agency, Fannie Mae Freddie Mac Certified. OCCHC offers classes in Spanish and English and can provide individual counseling appointments. For online educational courses go to: www.ehomeamerica.org/occhc

Orange County Community Housing Corporation 501 N Golden Cir Dr #200, Santa Ana, CA 92705 (714) 558-8161

United Way: OC Free Tax Preparation



Orange County United Way partners with IRS, nonprofits, and local businesses to provide the OC Free Tax Prep campaign to qualified families and individuals in Orange County.

For United Way's free tax filing services, please keep these points in mind: You must have earned less than \$60,000 in 2019. If earning less than \$56,000, you may also be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) and could receive over \$6,000 cash back.

There are two ways to get free tax filing with the OC Free Tax Prep Campaign: **Online:** This is the only free national online tax filing product offered by a non-profit. **With Support:** Schedule an appointment with an IRS certified volunteer.

To prepare properly, follow this simple checklist: Picture ID, Social Security card or ITIN letter for all individuals listed on the return, W-2s, 1099s and all other tax-related documents for 2019, Form 1095-A or B, or C health insurance coverage statement, all 1098-E and T forms for educational expenses, childcare provider name, address, phone number, and Tax ID number, bank account number and routing number for direct deposit refund, copy of 2019 Income Tax Return, and both spouses must be present to sign forms for joint returns.

Once you've filed your taxes, be sure to keep a copy of any forms you used to prepare your taxes, as well as a copy of your tax returns going back seven years. This information will make filing easier next year.

To schedule an appointment, please call the VITA hotline: 1-888-434-8248.



Free Events



Parenting OC returns to the Discovery Cube for its 14th Anniversary Edition of the Kids' Summer Opportunities Jamboree event.

This is the fifth year Discovery Cube partners with Parenting OC to host the summer-fun planning extravaganza. Plus, don't miss Parenting OC's cute Kid Cover Contest. Everyone who enters will receive a free event photo.

Free Admission and Parking

When: March 14, 2020

Time: 10:00AM to 3:00PM

Location:

Discovery Cube

2500 N. Main Street
Santa Ana, CA 92705



Laissez les bon temps rouler! Mardi Gras comes to the Argyros Plaza in an evening of New Orleans-style revelry. Enjoy mask-making and live performances with a range of musical styles to get you in the Mardi Gras mood. Don't miss zydeco, New Orleans jazz, and a second line parade on the plaza! Free activities!

Performances:

6:00 – Av Hamilton
7:00 – New Orleans Jazz Band
8:00 – Alligator Beach

When: February 15, 2020

Time: 6:00PM to 9:00PM

Location:

Julianne and George Argyros Plaza
600 Town Center Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

FSS Reimbursement

OCHA has an enhancement program to assist FSS participants who have demonstrated progress toward meeting their goals. The following are reimbursable out of pocket expenses per fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th):

Child Care expense: maximum \$1800.

Reimbursement is limited to participants who attend school or work full-time, or a combination of the two totaling full-time. Children under the age of 13 only.

Educational expense: maximum \$400.

For tuition, textbooks, class material, lab fees, testing fees, parking, and etc.

Emergency automobile repair: maximum \$300.

Vehicle registration/DMV fees, tune-up, oil changes or other; maintenance work **is not** eligible, only for emergency situation.

Prepaid Value Card: maximum \$100; \$50.00 per issuance.

When an educational goal is completed, a prepaid card is awarded when requested and may be utilized to purchase education and/or employment related items.

Bus Pass expense: maximum \$540.00; \$45 per month.

To assist with transportation for employment and/or school.

Note: Remember you must attend one workshop a year to access this benefit.

Graduation requirements: To graduate from the FSS Program, a participant must: Be independent of welfare (commonly referred to as CalWORKs in the state of California) for the last 12 consecutive months of the COP, seek and maintain suitable employment of 32 hours per week, and complete all interim and final goals listed on the ITSP prior to the expiration of the COP.

Please contact your FSS case manager for further details regarding the reimbursement enhancement program.

FSS Case Managers:

Erik Pelayo:

(714) 480-2748
erik.pelayo@occr.ocgov.com
(Clients with last name A-D)

Leticia Hernandez:

(714) 480-2746
leticia.hernandez@occr.ocgov.com
(Clients with last name E-L)

Myhanh Nguyen:

(714) 480-2922
myhanh.nguyen@occr.ocgov.com
(Clients with last name M-R)

Peggy Herrera:

(714) 480-2777
peggy.herrera@occr.ocgov.com
(Clients with last name S-Z)

Leticia Hernandez, Senior Housing Specialist/Team Lead

(714) 480-2746
leticia.hernandez@occr.ocgov.com

Trina Nguyen, Supervisor

(714) 480-2747
trina.nguyen@occr.ocgov.com

