

6.0(7) Community Service and Self-Sufficiency

The Adult Basic Education/Integrated English Language and Civic Education Program

The Adult Basic Education/Integrated English Language and Civic Education Program offers an array of services and curricula to the residents of the Housing Authority of the City of Camden (HACC) and to residents of Camden County at large.

The program is currently offering classes in two HACC sites: Branch Village in the morning and Ablett Village in the afternoon. The participants are engaged in a personal plan of study depending on the scores of the placement test each participant takes. Some of the most common goals the participants commit to are: increasing their Mathematical understanding, improving their Reading and/or Language skills, learning English as a Second Language or obtaining their G.E.D.

In addition to offering these services the program offers other activities that assist participants and their families enhance their communication, improve their health and obtain self-sufficiency. Some of these activities are:

Financial Education- Participants participate in a class that addresses creating a budget, clipping coupons, credit cards, etc.

Nutrition Class- Six week class offered by Rutgers Cooperative Extension. As part of participation students receive a weekly food bag and a certificate.

Civic Education- Six week program to enable participants to understand civic duty, local and regional political structure and voting responsibility through class lectures, field trips, workshops and guest speakers.

Family Literacy- Participants receive books and are encouraged to read to their children on a daily basis. Children are welcomed in the classes and participated in reading activities.

Family Self Sufficiency Program for Public Housing

The PH FSS Program assist families that are unemployed or underemployed to obtain employment that will allow them to become self-sufficient, that is, not dependent on welfare assistance.

Participation in the FSS Program is voluntary. Families entering the FSS Program work with a FSS Coordinator to develop goals that will, over a five (5) year period, lead to self-sufficiency. These goals may include education, specialized training, job readiness and job placement activities, and career advancement objectives. Goals for each participating family member are set out in Individual Training and Services Plans that are attached to the FSS Contract of Participation.

When the family meets its goals and completes its FSS contract, the family becomes eligible to receive funds deposited in an escrow account on its behalf through the family's participation in the FSS Program. The amount credited to the family's escrow account is based on increases in the family's earned income during the term of the FSS contract.

Neighborhood Network

The Neighborhood Network program targets adults of all ages seeking living wage employment.

Unemployed and under-employed work age and senior residents receive training and supportive services at HACC's Neighborhood Network Center, located at Ablett Village. Satellite computer centers operate in McGuire Gardens, Branch Village, and Chelton Terrace. HACC has opted to limit participation to no more than 30 participants at any given time; for a baseline goal of providing intensive case managed educational service to at least ninety (90) employment seeking residents within a three year period. This allows sufficient time and resources for participants to receive the necessary supportive services that are crucial for computer learning success. Learners are also linked with supportive services such as job placement and life skills development.

The Neighborhood Network's computer skills training (word processing, spreadsheet, graphic design and Internet navigation) integrated with the Success Learning Center's adult basic education and ESL (English as a Second Language) curriculum provides a well rounded educational environment. Additionally, teamwork, problem solving, communications skills, personal and job readiness skills and customer service are emphasized.

Focus of Computer Learning Center:
Job Skills Training/Employment
Introduction to/Familiarization with Computers
Internet Access
Basic Adult Education, Literacy, ESL, GED
Youth Education
Senior Services
Continuing Education
Recreation

YouthBuild

The YouthBuild program addresses the needs of the youth facing extreme high poverty, unemployment and high school dropout within the City of Camden. The program is designed to

the needs of Camden youth to deflect them from current or potential delinquency and to result in increased income, sustainability earnings and educational attainment.

Through its classroom and trades education the YouthBuild program provides the opportunities that are necessary to develop job readiness, such as;

- college preparation,
- construction training, and
- computer classes

In addition to these important skills, the youth participating in the program also receive life skills workshops that address the issues that they may be facing and are offered solutions that will lead to achieving independent and self-sufficient lives.