

# SHA TIMES

SPRINGFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY  
SPRING 2025



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## A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DR. JACKIE L. NEWMAN

*Happy Spring SHA Families and Partners!*

*All months of the year are important; however, March and April are especially important in our history. The month of March is designated as Women's History month and the month of April is designated as Fair Housing Month.*

*Women's History Month began as a local week in 1978 and expanded to a national month in 1978. Since 1995, each President has issued a proclamation designating the month of March as Women's History Month. The theme for Women's History Month 2025 is, "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." This year's theme recognizes the collective strength, equality, and influence of women within our nation, states, cities, and communities who dedicated and have dedicated their lives towards education, mentorship, and leadership. These women are vital and instrumental in shaping the minds and future of generations. Many of us have such women in our lives. These women serve as mentors and have been instrumental in shaping our minds, propelling us towards our future. Let me encourage you to take time to write a "thank you" note to a woman who has been an inspiration in your life and share your story of their impact.*

*On April 11, 1968, the Fair Housing Act was signed into law. The law prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability. The Fair Housing Act protects individuals from discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing, as well as in other housing related activities. Today, more protected classes are included in the Fair Housing Act, and many communities are more diverse. Fair housing laws are crucial, because where you live affects everything else in your life - your health, access to education, opportunities for employments, etc. This year's Fair Housing theme is, "Fair Housing: The 'Act' in Action." The theme emphasizes the importance of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and the ongoing efforts to ensure fair housing for all. The theme highlights the importance of the need for an ongoing commitment to combating discrimination in housing.*

*It is not lost upon us, even in 2025, that we still have a long way to go to build truly inclusive communities as we work towards a more integrated society where everyone has access to opportunity. It is important to remain vigilant fighting to eliminate housing discrimination and create access and opportunity in every community.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Dr. Jackie L. Newman  
Executive Director - Springfield Housing Authority*



# SECTION 3 COMPLIANCE



Greetings,

I'm Lauren Gordon-Davis and I am Springfield Housing Authority's new Section 3 Compliance Manager. Section 3 is a program designed to help SHA families and other eligible workers, obtain the skills and experience needed to build lasting careers in construction, carpentry, general maintenance, lawncare/landscaping, and so much more.

Section 3 requires, as housing developments are created, renovated, and maintained, families in subsidized housing and others, employment opportunities, through those projects.

The SHA encourages families to participate in the building and updating the communities, in which they live. The Section 3 program will help you obtain the skills and experience needed to assist with SHA projects and create lasting careers.

Upcoming Section 3 Informational Sessions will take place at 200 North 11th Street on the following dates:

- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025 - 12:00PM**
- **SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025 - 10:00AM**
- **THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025 - 10:00AM**
- **TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025 - 6:00PM**

To RSVP for these sessions, please call 217-753-5757, Extension 315. You may also email me at [laurend@sha1.org](mailto:laurend@sha1.org).

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns, ahead of the sessions. I look forward to meeting with you and helping you reach your career goals.

Thank you.

Ms. Lauren M. Gordon-Davis M.A.





# SHA STAFFING



You may call (217) 753-5757 and enter the needed extensions from below:

**DIRECTOR OF HCV**  
*(formerly Section 8)*  
**Kylie Jackson**

**HCV MANAGER**  
**Latina Faulkner**  
Ext. 230

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT**  
**Tiffany Armstrong-Hampton**  
Ext. 219

**HCV SPECIALIST**  
**Kamisha Benton**  
Ext. 281

**HCV SPECIALIST**  
**Grace Bibb**  
Ext. 254

**HCV SPECIALIST**  
**LaTrina Henry**  
Ext. 218

**FILING CLERK**  
**Karen Coolidge**  
Ext. 282

**HOUSING  
NAVIGATOR**  
**Lavasha Hemingway**  
Ext. 243

**INSPECTOR**  
**Mark Lietz**  
Ext. 224

**INSPECTOR**  
**Aundrae Williams**  
Ext. 225

**HCV SPECIAL PROGRAMS COORDINATOR**  
**Jeronica Bighams**  
Ext. 253

**PROGRAM INTEGRITY SPECIALIST**  
**Samantha Gaines**  
Ext. 241



**HCV SPECIALIST**

**PARTICIPANT'S  
LAST NAME  
BEGINNING WITH EXTENSION**

<b>Kamisha Benton</b>	<b>A-D</b>	<b>281</b>
<b>Grace Bibb</b>	<b>E-LE</b>	<b>254</b>
<b>LaTrina Henry</b>	<b>LI-SA</b>	<b>218</b>
<b>Vacant</b>	<b>SC-Z</b>	<b>273</b>





# SHA STAFFING

You may call (217) 753-5757 and enter the needed extensions from below:



## DIRECTOR OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

**Sarah Wallman**

### FSS SPECIALIST

**Andi Bastin-Clark**

Ext. 212

### FSS SPECIALIST

**Bridget Finn**

Ext. 259

### ROSS SERVICE COORDINATOR

**Adrienne Kipp**

Ext. 420

### HOMEOWNERSHIP

**COORDINATOR**

**Ron Zumwalt**

Ext. 209

## FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY



The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program is an employment and earnings initiative established by HUD to move assisted housing residents toward economic stability and autonomy. Since its inception in the 1990s, the Springfield Housing Authority (SHA) has been an enthusiastic proponent of this supportive coaching model.

SHA is proud to share that in 2024, 32 program participants achieved suitable employment and are free from cash welfare assistance, allowing them to graduate from the FSS Program. What a milestone it is for these individuals who have set goals over the past few years and seen their individual financial capacity grow—not only by their own employment, but by earning funds set aside by the public housing authority. When income increases for all housing participants, a rental increase always follows. As an FSS participant, any increase in rent paid, called “escrow”, gets put back into their pocket at the successful completion of the program.

The BIG NEWS is that the seven (7) hard-working graduates in December set a new record in earned escrow for a single graduation ceremony. Drumroll please . . . these individuals earned \$111,271.30 over the course of their program participation. WOW! And in total, Springfield Housing Authority’s 2024 FSS graduates earned over \$361,000 in escrow funds!! That is AMAZING! Graduate families have been able to purchase much-needed transportation, establish investment accounts for their retirement, pay for educational expenses, and put money toward the downpayment on their first home.

But it’s not just about the money. Participants have written resumes for the first time. They’ve earned job certifications, learned how to build and/or repair credit, connected to educational resources, and so much more. Accountability has begun. Confidence has grown. Brighter futures have been claimed!

If YOU are ready to begin your journey to self-sufficiency, let us know! We cannot wait to meet you!

CALL: 217.753.5757 ext. 244

EMAIL: [SarahW@sha1.org](mailto:SarahW@sha1.org)

STOP IN: 200 North 11th Street

*Mrs. Sarah Wallman*





# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## RENT REMINDERS & MORE



### MONEY ORDERS & CASHIERS' CHECKS

When paying with a money order or a cashiers' check, please ensure the following:

- Sign & print your name legibly
- Make sure your address is printed on document
- Keep the receipt for your records
- Money Orders can be reissued immediately with a minimal charge (at location of purchase)
- Cashiers' checks cannot be reissued for 90 days & may have a charge (at location of purchase)

### ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR TENANT RENT PAYMENTS

Visit Springfield Housing Authority's website to make online payments at [www.springfieldhousingauthority.org](http://www.springfieldhousingauthority.org). Detailed instructions can be found on the SHA website under the Tenant Portal button.

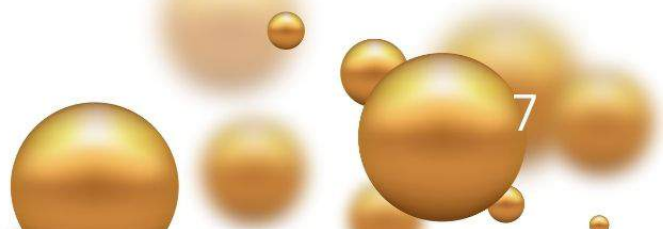
A portal code is required to register for the Tenant Portal. If you need a code, please contact Mr. Phillip Blood, Accounts Receivable Clerk. Check out the simple instructions below:

- Click on the 'Affordable Housing Tab' on the left side of the page
- Click on the 'Tenant Portal' blue box in the center of the page
- Log in to your 'Online Portal' and click, 'Online Payment Processing'
- The balance due will show on the screen, click on 'Click to Select' to make a payment
- Under the 'Payment Options', click to pay 'Current Balance' or 'Pay Specific Amount'
- Select 'Payment Method' and enter in payment information and 'Click Save'
- Check the 'I Agree' for the convenience fee and then click 'Pay Now' to submit payment
- The final screen will show either a green check mark for successful payment or a red X for payment declined

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Phillip Blood, Accounts Receivable Clerk at (217) 753-5757 extension 227 or email [phillipb@sha1.org](mailto:phillipb@sha1.org) for assistance.



Michelle Sergent  
Director of Finance





# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING & MORE



### AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPLICATIONS

Applications for Affordable Housing, including Lincolnwood Estates and The Villas at Vinegar Hill are accepted every Monday & Tuesday from 8:30AM to 11:30AM or 1:00PM to 4:00PM. All applications MUST be submitted in person. Unfortunately, telephone, mail, internet, or fax applications will NOT be accepted. For information on what documents to bring with your application, please visit our website at [www.springfieldhousingauthority.org](http://www.springfieldhousingauthority.org).

### INCOME CHANGES

Be sure to report ALL household income, including temporary employment, unemployment, child support, social security and/or TANF. In addition, be sure to report any decrease in income, including no income. Income changes for all residents are accepted from 8:30AM to 11:30AM or 1:00PM to 4:00PM. Your Occupancy Specialist will verify total income, including unreported income. Your rental payments will be based on the household's total income. All income is reported to EIV and Springfield Housing Authority will discover any unreported income.

### CHECK YOUR BALANCE ONLINE

To check your current balance, visit our website at [www.springfieldhousingauthority.org](http://www.springfieldhousingauthority.org). The USERNAME is the head of household's last name. The password is the head of household's last four digits of their social security number. For more information, contact Accounts Receivable at 217-753-5757.

### YARD WORK

You are responsible for the exterior of your home and yard. Lawns should be cut and free of any yard waste or debris at all times. Failure to maintain the exterior of your home will result in a non-compliance charge in addition to a minimum charge if Springfield Housing Authority has to perform maintenance. Any fines assessed by the city will be billed to your Springfield Housing Authority account.

### PEST CONTROL

If a Public Housing resident requests pest control but is not ready for treatment when Pest Control arrives at their unit, a \$50 charge will be added to their account for most infestations. However, tenants will be charged \$100 if their unit is not ready for bed bug treatment.

### WASTE REMOVAL

Please note that regularly scheduled waste pick-up may be delayed due to holidays or weather. To ensure timely pickup, please make sure that your totes are in their designated pickup location prior to 7AM on your scheduled pickup day. The location must be free of any obstructions as this may cause a delay in service if Republic Services determines that is not safe. To report a missed pickup, please contact Republic Services at 217-522-7797.



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## STRESSED? CONSIDER THIS!



### What is stress and what causes it?

Stress is a state of physical or emotional tension in response to something in our environment. Stress often comes with alertness or irritability. Some stress serves a purpose - helping us focus during an exam or react quickly to avoid danger. However, when stress lingers, it can have a big impact on both physical and mental well-being.

While we can't always control what causes stress, we can develop healthy ways to respond to it. Understanding our stress triggers and responses is crucial for maintaining mental health and overall wellness.

### 5 WAYS TO MANAGE STRESS

1. **Review and Organize** - Taking time to sort through tasks and information often provides relief. Try breaking down overwhelming tasks, such as writing a research paper or cleaning your apartment, into manageable steps. Focus on one task at a time rather than trying to handle everything at once - and be honest with yourself about how much you can get done in a given time frame. It might help to spread tasks out over a few days or weeks.
2. **Take a Break** - You might hesitate to take breaks, especially if you have a lot to get done or are up against a deadline. But moments of rest can actually help you reduce stress and be more productive in the long run. Meditation, deep breathing, or yoga can clear your mind and help you stay in the present moment. Integrate these practices into your daily routine, even for just a few minutes at a time. Another tip: challenge yourself to take screen-free breaks. This can help you better manage stress and truly reset. Try working on a hobby or simply lying down for a little while.
3. **Keep It Moving** - Movement is a great way to reduce stress. Plus, getting outside for a change of scenery and disconnecting from our phones can be really powerful for creativity and our overall mental health. Consider dedicating part of your lunch break or morning to taking a walk - even if it's just around the block - to find some calm and movement. You can also make a point of engaging in a type of exercise you love, whether it's dance, basketball, running, or something else.





# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## STRESSED? CONSIDER THIS! (CONTINUED)



4. **Make Sleep a Priority** - The connection between stress and sleep works both ways - stress can disrupt sleep, and poor sleep increases stress. People who are sleep-deprived tend to have higher levels of the stress hormone cortisol, which can cause brain fog, irritability, and other negative effects.

Work on creating a consistent bedtime routine to improve sleep quality and ensure you're getting seven to nine hours each night. This can include going to sleep at the same time each night and doing relaxing activities the hour leading up to bedtime.

5. **Understand Your Stress Patterns** - What gets you stressed out? Is it studying, talking to a specific person, or doing a task you don't like? Understanding what sets off your stress can ultimately help you manage it.

One way to better understand your stress triggers is to journal at the end of each day to capture your thoughts and feelings. This can help identify patterns like: every time I talk to this person, I end up being stressed the rest of the day; every time I agree to lead a team project, I end up doing all the work. This awareness can help you make informed decisions about avoiding or better handling stressful situations.

While these strategies can help manage everyday stress, sometimes professional support provides the most effective path forward. If you find that stress consistently impacts your daily life, consider talking with a mental health professional who can offer personalized strategies.

The Jed Foundation





# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER'S IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



*Housing Choice Voucher 30 Day Notices  
are only accepted during the following dates & times:*

To Move April 1, 2025  
Wednesday, February 19, 2025  
8:30AM - 11:30AM or 1:00PM - 4:00PM  
Monday, February 24, 2025  
1:00PM - 4:00PM

To Move May 1, 2025  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025  
8:30AM-11:30AM or 1:00PM - 4:00PM  
Monday, April 28, 2025

To Move July 1, 2025  
Monday, May 19, 2025  
1:00PM - 4:00PM  
Wednesday, May 21, 2025  
8:30AM - 11:30AM or 1:00PM - 4:00PM

To Move August 1, 2025  
Wednesday, June 18, 2025  
8:30AM - 11:30AM or 1:00PM - 4:00PM

To Move September 1, 2025  
Wednesday, July 23, 2025  
8:30AM - 11:30AM or 1:00PM - 4:00PM

To Move October 1, 2025  
Wednesday, August 20, 2025  
8:30AM - 11:30AM or 1:00PM - 4:00PM  
Monday, August 25, 2025  
1:00PM - 4:00PM

To Move November 1, 2025  
Wednesday, September 24, 2025  
8:30AM - 11:30AM or 1:00PM - 4:00PM  
Monday, September 29, 2025  
1:00PM - 4:00PM

To Move December 1, 2025  
Wednesday, October 22, 2025  
8:30AM - 11:30AM or 1:00PM - 4:00PM  
Monday, October 27, 2025  
1:00PM - 4:00PM

To Move January 1, 2026  
Wednesday, November 19, 2025  
8:30AM - 11:30AM or 1:00PM - 4:00PM  
Monday, November 24, 2025  
1:00PM - 4:00PM





# LANDLORD WORKSHOP

## *The Annual 2024 Landlord Workshop*

The Annual 2024 Landlord Workshop was very significant for the Springfield Housing Authority and the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, as we marked 50 years since the inception of the Voucher program. August 21, 2024 marked the 50th anniversary of the Section 8 program (now known as the Housing Choice Voucher Program) through The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

As we celebrated this significant milestone, we take the opportunity to briefly look back on the impact the Housing Choice Voucher Program has had in the City of Springfield and throughout Sangamon County. We also want to reflect on the many collaborations in which the Springfield Housing Authority has been in partnership and collaboration with across these 50 years.

In 1974 the Springfield Housing Authority began operating its Section 8 program with 52 Section 8 Certificates and approximately \$197,000 available for Housing Assistance Payments to Landlords.

In 1978 – the SHA engaged in its' first public-private partnership with West Washington Plaza in the development of a 101-unit private sector senior citizen low-rise. Today, our most recent public-private partnership is with the Poplar Place community, a substantial renovation and partial demolition affordable housing conversion for families.

The Voucher/Voucher program has been instrumental in expanding affordable housing options to diverse populations since its inception. Some of the public-private partnerships in which the Springfield Housing Authority has been instrumental and in partnership -- include:

- Nehemiah Homes – (all 4 phases)
- Poplar Place
- Madison Park Place Renovation & Rehabilitation
- Lincolnwood Estates
- Hope Springs
- Mason Street Apartments
- Timberlakes Senior Living
- Union Baptist Plaza
- Kings Court
- Cook Street Renaissance – to name a few!!

Throughout these 50 years, the Springfield Housing Authority's Voucher program has experienced significant growth – growing from a small 52 voucher program to today providing approximately 2,600 vouchers supporting families; and a Housing Assistance Payment budget from approximately \$197,000 annually to \$17 million to support payments to private landlords in Springfield/Sangamon County.



*Latina Faulkner, HCV Manager*



*2024 Landlords of Springfield, Illinois*



# SPRINGFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY

*The Following Holidays Will Be Observed & Springfield Housing Authority Will Be Closed*



**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
**JUNETEENTH**  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**LABOR DAY**  
**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY**  
**VETERANS' DAY**  
**THANKSGIVING DAY**  
**DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025**  
**MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025**  
**FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2025**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025**  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026**





# HOW ARE WE DOING?

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We would love for you to take the time to tell us how we're doing. We truly do want to continue to make changes to better serve you! If you could please take a few moments of your time, scan the QR Code below, and answer a few questions, we would be so appreciative. Help us improve!

Thank you so much for your consideration!





# THANK YOU

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We value our families and are always looking for ways to connect with you & to keep you informed! You are a vital part of the Springfield community and we appreciate serving you. We would like to thank you for taking the time to be a part of our reading audience!

Happy Spring!

