

Direct to You

Friday
11/10/21

Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director



“Fall”-ing into the Season

Good afternoon team,

As many of you know, autumn is one of my favorite times of the year. As an East Coast girl, all the signs of the changing season – from the colors of the leaves to adjusting the clock, and of course all the holidays that we celebrate from Hanukkah, to the Donghzi Festival to Christmas and more, give us so much to look forward to as the weather gets chillier and the days get shorter. I am reminded of the reason for the season and the warmth that comes from family and close friends celebrating together.

This year, we have so much to celebrate. For one, just making it through the changes of the past two years is a testament to our hard work and resilience. A lot is going on at OHA and I couldn't be more proud of the commitment shown by the entire OHA family.

As we look ahead, we will likely be able to do more with more. Usually public agencies have to do more with less, but as Congress works to pass the Build Back Better bill, the housing industry in general and housing agencies across the country, in particular, anticipate new funding that will enable us to create more housing units, conduct long-delayed improvements and offer new and innovative supports for the clients we serve.

I thank each of you for your continued focus on the well-being of our clients; and I strongly encourage us all to make time during the holiday season to reflect on what is most important to us, personally, and spend time enjoying what makes your heart flutter.

On a final note, I want to express my appreciation for the men and women—whom we will celebrate on Veterans Day this Thursday, November 11—for your service in our armed forces. OHA does our best to honor you by serving our fellow Americans within our community using the same passion and dedication.

To all, remember to be safe and alert. With the time change it is now darker earlier, so please drive carefully and pay attention to your surroundings.

Patricia



All past issues of Direct To You are available on the OHA website for 24/7 access. In addition to the messages sent directly from the OHA executive director, you can also find links to other resources, articles, and up-to-date information about OHA operations and the ways we are addressing the current health crisis.



2022 OHA Holiday Schedule and OHA Calendar



Oakland Housing Authority

2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

OHA will recognize the following holidays in 2022. Business offices will be closed on these dates.

December 30, 2021	Thursday	New Year's Day (Observed, office closed)
January 17	Monday	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday (Observed)
February 21	Monday	Presidents Day
March 28	Monday	Cesar Chavez's Birthday (Observed)
May 30	Monday	Memorial Day
June 20	Monday	Juneteenth (Observed)
July 4	Monday	Independence Day (Observed)
September 5	Monday	Labor Day
September 8	Thursday	Admission Day (OHA office closed)
November 11	Friday	Veterans Day
November 24	Thursday	Thanksgiving Day
November 25	Friday	Day after Thanksgiving Day (OHA office closed)
December 23	Thursday	1/2 Day – Christmas Eve (OHA office closed)
December 26	Monday	Christmas Day (observed)
December 29	Thursday	1/2 Day – New Year's Eve (OHA office closed)
January 2, 2023	Monday	New Year's Day (Observed, OHA office closed)

One floating holiday will be earned on Indigenous People's Day, October 10, 2022. Unreps earn a floating holiday on Thursday, September 8, 2022. Please note that holidays that fall on an Alternate Friday (day off) will be observed on the previous scheduled work day. *Calendar is current as of November 2021.

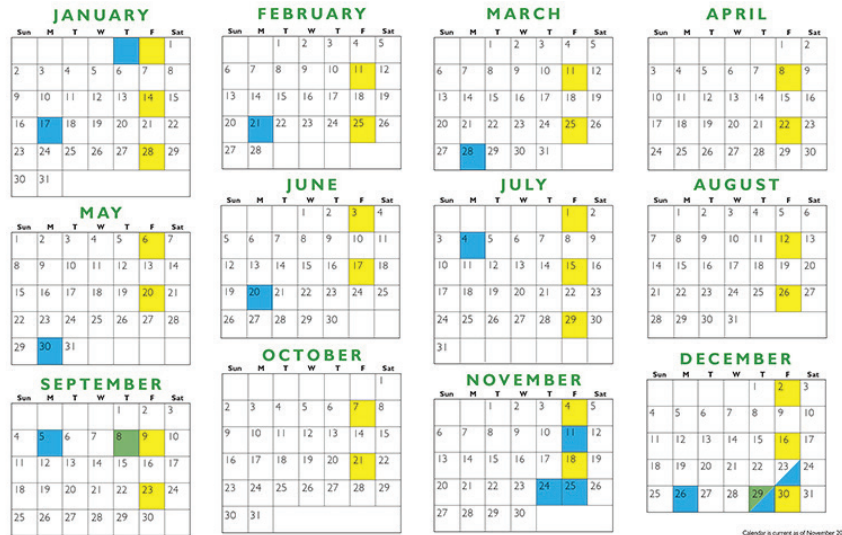
1619 HARRISON STREET, OAKLAND, CA 94612 • (510) 874-1500

2022

OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY

1619 HARRISON STREET, OAKLAND, CA 94612 • Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm. The downtown office is closed on alternate Fridays.

The calendar below outlines the 2022 holiday and office closures.



Observed holidays - Offices closed
 Non-work day - Offices closed
 Offices closed to the public

2022 OBSERVED HOLIDAYS (OHA Offices Closed)
 December 30, 2021 New Year's Day (observed)
 January 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 February 21 President's Day
 March 28 Cesar Chavez Day (observed)
 May 30 Memorial Day
 June 20 Juneteenth
 July 4 Independence Day
 September 5 Labor Day
 September 8 Admission Day
 November 11 Veterans Day
 November 24 Thanksgiving
 November 25 Day After Thanksgiving
 December 23 1/2 Day - Christmas Eve
 December 26 Christmas Day (observed)
 December 29 1/2 Day - New Year's Eve
 January 2, 2023 New Year's Day (observed)

Housing the Dream

On October 14, 2021, Secretary Marcia Fudge visited the city of Oakland with Congresswoman Barbara Lee. Mayor Libby Schaaf and the city team along with Executive Director Patricia Wells and many Bay Area leaders in housing welcomed the Secretary with a full day of site tours and thoughtful discussions. Dominica Henderson, Director of Planning, Implementation, and Compliance and Michelle Hasan, Director of Leased Housing, joined our Executive Director, Patricia Wells on the tour.

Secretary Fudge toured three properties throughout the city, two of which have project-based vouchers provided by OHA. The sites, Fruitvale Transit Village, Clifton Hall, and Aurora offered the Secretary and her team a beautiful look into the power of OHA's partnership and contribution to creating permanent affordable housing communities in Oakland. In their discussions, the Secretary and the Congresswoman highlighted the intersection between housing and health, education, and economic mobility for low-income families. They also examined how HUD can help housing authorities house families more effectively. Overall the tone of the Secretary's visit was one of hope as well as clear expectation and responsibility that housing authorities in the Bay Area and nationwide meet the charge of ensuring that families in need gain access to precious housing resources and use that housing as a foundation from which each person in the household grows and thrives.



Left: Michelle Hasan and HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge
 Right: Patricia Wells (Center), with Sarah Bedford, HHS and Wendy Jackson, EOCP

Emergency Housing Vouchers



OHA received an award of 515 EHV's. Eligibility for these EHV's is limited to direct referrals from the County Coordinated Entry system of individuals and families who are (1) homeless; (2) at risk of homelessness; (3) fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking; or (4) recently homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability.

As of November 1, 2021, OHA has met the following milestones:

- 424 households identified for Referral by Alameda County
- 228 applications in process by OHA
- 128 vouchers searching for a unit
- 18 vouchers leased

OHA has created a public facing EHV Dashboard, which updates daily.

OHA has launched a communication campaign to share its new landlord incentives and resident incentives including \$1,000 lease up bonus, \$100-250 resident leasing bonus, post move-in care packages to name a few.

Shout out to the OHA EHV team-Julie Christensen, Teela Carpenter, Jetta Farrow, Caroline Barnett, Thanh Nguyen, Rose Marie griffin, Elise Geiger, Mandy Lam, Ashley Downing, Eric Avila, Candyce Moore and Greer McVay.



Foster Youth Independence Vouchers

OHA received an award of 49 vouchers to serve youth at least 18 years and not more than 24 years of age who have left foster care, or will leave foster care within 90 days and are homeless at age 16 or older. OHA will collaborate with the Alameda County Social Services Agency and LOA Family, a local nonprofit agency, to identify eligible youth, leverage supportive services. A voucher issued to a FYI youth may only be used to provide housing assistance for a maximum of 36 months. The effective date is February 28, 2021 and budget authority is \$1,193,522..

Are you Eligible for a Booster Shot?

Certain people are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster shot, including those who received Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines. Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.



For individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings

For the nearly 15 million people who got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.

Additional populations may be recommended to receive a booster shot as more data become available.

We trust that the year is coming to a good close for you, your loved ones, and that you remain hopeful as we approach the end of the year with only two months left.

The holidays will be approaching before we know it, and with that sometimes come a lot of expenses. We all know that spending can easily get out of hand. LifeWorks provides tips to celebrate and save through their many financial resources, which you can access online or telephonically through your EAP. As worldwide holidays and celebrations are fast approaching, we encourage you to start planning now for ways to rejoice without breaking the bank. Reach out to your EAP to learn how to budget-proof your holiday spending for a happier and less stressful end of the year!

Free Resources: Bi-weekly webinars, Related LifeWorks Articles

Upcoming Bi-Weekly webinar dates:

- November 5, 2021 (11am PST) – Topic: Holiday Budgeting
- November 19, 2021 (11am PST) – Topic: Mind Over Money

Get connected with a certified financial consultant who can support you in many areas including:

Budgeting and overall money management, Credit card debt & debt management options, Credit management and rebuilding of credit and many more!

LifeWorks Support & Resources: Financial Wellbeing Toolkit
 Teaching Your Kids about Financial Management
 Recognizing the Signs of Financial Abuse

REMEMBER: if you have reasonable suspicion that you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or if you are experiencing symptoms of fever (100.4 Fahrenheit or higher), coughing, or shortness of breath, do not report to work. Immediately contact your primary care provider and then your supervisor for instructions on what you need to do next. If you have any questions regarding your schedule, please contact your supervisor or Director. If you have questions in regards to pay or leave time, please contact Human Resources at (510) 874-1575.



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