



OUR Voice

Oakland Unified Residents



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The Scoop

Denti-Cal Returns!

Beginning May 1, 2014 certain adult dental benefits will be restored for Medi-Cal recipients through the Denti-Cal program. Full descriptions of the restored services can be found in Section 5 of the "Manual of Criteria and Schedule of Maximum Allowances," in the Provider Handbook. Some of the procedures that will become available again include comprehensive examinations, x-rays, fillings, root canals, tooth replacements, denture repair and cleaning and conditioning of the teeth and gums. Please check the Denti-Cal website for future updates and clarifications. For questions, please call Denti-Cal customer service at 1 (800) 423-0507.

www.denti-cal.ca.gov



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Winners of the Playground Safety Poster Contest

To celebrate National Playground Safety Week, OHA resident children participated in a poster contest sponsored by the Housing Authority Insurance Group. This year's theme, "Have NO Fear – Playground Safety is Here!" encouraged the children to showcase their artistic talent while highlighting their own playground safety ideas.

Poster by Valeria Ochoa age 13, third place winner.



The contest was open to all the brave superheroes between the ages of 6 and 14, from which OHAPD selected a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner in each of three age groups. 1st place winners are: Madinah Waqia-Alamin (8), Anh Duc Le (11), and Na He Ma (13).

All the winners will receive gift cards, and the first place winners in the three age groups will be entered into the national contest to compete against children in other housing authorities. The national winners will be announced May 23, 2014.

OHA Launches New Website www.oakha.org



The Oakland Housing Authority receives hundreds of phone calls, e-mails and visitors each day with many asking the same questions or needing assistance with the same types of issues. In an effort to be more responsive to the needs of the people that the agency exists to serve, OHA has updated its website. The new website offers greater access to information for residents wanting service, vendors wishing to do business, members of the public looking for general information about what we do or ways to get involved, and students doing research. The website has something for everyone in a new more intuitive format that makes navigation quick and easy.

Since launching on March 3, 2014, the OHA website at oakha.org has had over

16,000 unique visitors who have logged nearly 100,000 page views. What that means is thousands of people are learning about employment and education programs, remotely tracking waitlist openings, downloading forms, registering for business opportunities or applying for a job at OHA and all are saving time and money by avoiding trips downtown, long lines and parking fees. With the improvements over the old website, visitors can more easily identify the person who can help address their needs and contact them directly through e-mail or by phone.

While the website contains many new features it is expected to get better over time. Additional functionality is being considered and will be added over the coming months and years. The goal of OHA is to provide service at levels that exceed expectations. With this new website the agency is well on its way. Visit oakha.org today and explore the many services available to OHA residents through the Residents Programs page under the Residents/Participants tab. Also, readers can sign up to receive OUR Voice electronically by completing the subscription form at <http://www.oakha.org/AboutUs/Pages/Subscribe.aspx>.

Spotlight

Graduates

Salayfo Smith graduated the FSS program 2/28/14

Charisse Henderson graduated the FSS program 2/28/14

New Homeowners

Mr. & Mrs. Li, Terri Mcintosh, Martha Obo-lu & Thewodros Lemma, Meuy Seatum, Lavern Abdi all purchased homes through the homeownership program this year.

Spotlights for future issues:

Please send names of OHA family and friends who have recent accomplishments you'd like to share with the housing community.

Make sure to include your name, phone number and e-mail address, along with the name of the person you want to recognize and your relationship to that person.

Send entries to:

ohacommunications@oakha.org

OHA Summer Lunch Program

The Oakland Housing Authority, Department of Family and Community Partnerships will partner again with the City of Oakland's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) to host free and nutritious meals for children, ages 18 and under.

This program, held at locations throughout Oakland, helps children get the nutrition necessary to learn, play, and grow during summer vacation—making them better prepared to start another school year. SFSP also encourages healthy eating habits leading to normal weight and a positive self-image. Oakland's SFSP, administered under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, delivers FREE lunches and snacks to community organizations serving youth in Oakland.

The first day of the SFSP is June 16, 2014 and last day of lunch service is August 15, 2014. Youth can drop in for a free lunch at any open SFSP site during their designated hours of service, usually Monday through Friday 12pm - 1:00pm. OHA will host the program at three of our multi-family housing complexes in East and West

Oakland at the following addresses:

- 1327 65th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94621 (East Oakland)
- 935 Union Street, Oakland, CA. 94607 (West Oakland)
- 800 Campbell Street, Oakland, CA 94607 (West Oakland)



Last year the summer lunch programs at OHA served an average of 50 school age youth daily at the public housing sites located at Lockwood Gardens, Peralta Villa and Campbell Village. This program was operated by six (6) OHA residents who volunteered to serve nutritional meals to youth during summer break.

To find a summer lunch program near you, please call:

- Oaklanders' Assistance Center at (510) 444-C-I-T-Y
- Alameda County Community Food Bank 1-800-870-FOOD 🌱

OHA Summer Employment Opportunities

The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) is committed to supporting its youth with employment and educational enrichment activities during the summer months. In 2013, OHA partnered with the City of Oakland Mayor's Office and Youth Uprising (YU) to provide summer employment opportunities to over 350 OHA youth working 70-100 hours between June and September earning wages from \$8-10 per hour.

OHA is preparing once again for the summer 2014 youth employment season. Through the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program, OHA resident youth are placed in employment opportunities throughout the city at various community-based organizations

and private companies. The Summer Education and Employment Program (SEEP) offered through YU provides youth employment opportunities for eight weeks during the summer.

Additionally, they provide educational assessments, financial literacy, and Cyber High, a program that enables students to recover academic credits necessary for high school graduation. Through both programs, youth work in various fields such as carpentry, maintenance, food service, janitorial, childcare, multimedia arts and much more!



Interested students must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- **The Mayor's Summer Jobs Program:** Be an OHA resident (on the lease) and be between the ages of 16-21.
- **SEEP:** You must be an OHA resident (on the lease), enrolled in high school, and be between the ages of 14-18.

For more information on how to receive notifications about these summer youth employment opportunities, please contact the Department of Family and Community Partnerships at (510) 587-5115 no later than June 1, 2014. 🌱

Summer Camp

It's never too early to start thinking about summer vacation! Spend the summer at a day camp making new friends, encountering new experiences and most importantly, having fun.

City of Oakland youth programs offer hundreds of safe, supervised, play activities that keep school-age children active and engaged. For the past several years, OHA has partnered

with several agencies serving youth as they provide children living in OHA communities life enrichment activities throughout the year, especially during the summer.

Contact any of the summer camp providers in the box below to learn how to apply for the programs available. For further information you may call FCP at (510) 587-5115.

SUMMER CAMPS

Boys and Girls Club

920 24th St, Oakland
(510) 272-9929
3300 High St, Oakland
(510) 842-3722
8530 International Blvd, Oakland
(510) 638-1532

East Oakland Youth Development Center - EOYDC

8200 International Blvd. Oakland
(510) 569-8088

City of Oakland
Office of Parks & Recreation
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Suite 3330, Oakland
(510) 238-PARK
(510) 238-7275

YMCA of the East Bay
2350 Broadway, Oakland
(510) 451-9622
3265 Market St, Oakland
(510) 654-9622
1612 45th Ave, Oakland
(510) 534-7441

Contact these local organizations for more information on summer camps.

Success Stories

Mildred Powell represents what is possible when a resident seizes opportunities made available through OHA. Ms. Powell was awarded a Section 8 Voucher in 2011 and immediately began to take advantage of the programs designed to help her quickly move from government dependency to self-sufficiency. She attended the Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI), a 12-week program offered through Attitudinal Healing Connection, Inc., which trains residents to be community leaders. Once she graduated NLI, she was recruited to apply to the Parent Ambassador program, giving her greater influence in her children's school. She also took advantage of an opportunity advertised to residents by FCP to attend the College of Alameda to obtain certification in Professional Support.

At an OUSD job fair Mildred applied to be a substitute for OUSD staff when they are on leave from work. OHA staff who knew of her work ethic provided letters of recommendation and OHA also subsidized the cost of fingerprinting for her DOJ security clearance. She was soon offered a full time project position substituting in the accounting department within the OUSD Nutritional Services department. In January 2014, Mildred was offered a full time position within OUSD as a special needs pre-school professional aide at Burbank Preschool Center, a position that required the certification she had obtained through the College of Alameda.

Mildred set a goal to purchase a home and has enrolled in FCP's Family Self Sufficiency Program (FSS). The program is designed to allow the accumulation of savings as the participant's income increases.

Mildred has now come full circle and is a wonderful example of how a combination of personal motivation, opportunity and support can result in a great outcome!

Congratulations Mildred – we are proud of you. Keep up the good work!

RESOURCES

Translation Services

OHA offers translation services in over 150 languages for residents with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). This service is enabled through the use of a special language phone line over the telephone and at all of our offices.

Studies show that increasing English proficiency benefits individuals and their community. English proficiency helps people increase their wages and work productivity; it also facilitates civic engagement and improves the opportunities for parents to participate in their children's education. Many Oakland organizations offer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for adults. For more information about ESL classes contact one of the following organizations:

Harbor House: www.hhministries.org

Lao Family Community Development: www.lfcd.org

Lasallian Educational Opportunities (LEO):
www.theleocenter.org

The English Center: www.englishcenter.edu

YOUR VOICE

Q: If I live in West Oakland, can I use the facilities at the East Oakland district office?

A: All OHA residents are welcome to use facilities and resources that are offered at any of our offices. Each of our facilities is equipped with a computer lab with access to the internet. FCP staff is available to assist you with creating a resume, computer use instruction, Internet research and much more. The locations are at 935 Union Street, Oakland, CA 94607 on the 2nd Floor and at 1327 65th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94621. The computer lab hours are 9am-4pm, Monday- Friday. For additional information, please call (510) 587-5115.

E-mail your comments or news to ohacommunications@oakha.org or drop off content at your management office.

RAB Blog

“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

When Dr. King spoke these words he wasn't speaking specifically about the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) Resident Advisory Board (RAB), nevertheless, the spirit of his words are exactly what propel this small body of dedicated individuals to continue the fight to take back our community.

For far too long Oakland's biggest problem has been crime and its biggest accomplishments have been eclipsed by a staggering number of drug- and gang-related crimes and record breaking murder rate. We have elected mayor after mayor and city council after city council, in addition to the six Chiefs of Police Oakland has seen in the last 10 years, all to no avail. But the answer doesn't rest in the hands of those we put in charge, the answer lies within each of us. We must recognize that for us to see change we must be the change we want to see. Complacency is no longer an option. The result of complacency is moving further away from the dream that Dr. King instilled in us so many years ago and which influenced the way most of us raise our children.

Through the cumulative impact of all of OHA's programs, residents have the tools to overcome the obstacles that contribute to multi-generational poverty and help reduce their susceptibility to negative behaviors. Knowledge of the corrosive effects of living in an area plagued by violence builds immunity to the real harm done and leads to a higher tolerance for the very behaviors we must eliminate from our communities. Equal access to education and professional opportunities is the key to long-term success and taking aggressive action to attain those opportunities is a goal that can be shared by all.

The Resident Advisory Board (RAB) encourages everyone to get involved. An individual's involvement can be customized to meet their own personal needs and schedule but it should have a positive effect on the greater community. The OHA RAB encourages participation through any or all of the formal programs offered including attendance at a local Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), RAB meeting, or the OHA Neighborhood Leadership Institute. We are the hope for positive change! Join us and make 2014 the year to become a catalyst for change by calling (510) 587-5129.

RAB'S MISSION STATEMENT

To ensure that OHA Public Housing Residents and Section 8 Participants actively participate in the decision making process regarding OHA policies and procedures and are actively engaged in their community as leaders.

The Resident Advisory Board meets at 5pm the first Thursday of every month at OHA's main office at 1619 Harrison Street in the Board of Commissions Room.

Special Education

There are many types of learning disabilities and they occur with varying degrees of severity. Fortunately schools offer much greater support to children today than in previous generations. This is not to suggest that families have all the resources they need but increasingly students are educated in a mainstream environment giving them the opportunity to interact with a broader student body. Many students, however, have learning disabilities that go undetected or misdiagnosed, and others do not receive the type of support that would improve their academic performance until later in their educational careers. Such is the case with some students who have relatively minor disabilities such as dyslexia. By identifying the problem early, interventions can happen and alternative learning plans can be established to help the student stay on track.

Studies show that a disproportionate number of African American children, boys in particular, are diagnosed with ADD and ADHD, or Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, respectively. These conditions are characterized by lack of focus, impulsiveness and inattentiveness. The symptoms often frustrate teachers, lead to complaints about disruptive classroom behavior, and impact academic performance. While treatable with medication,

research suggests that many diagnoses are inaccurate and cause unnecessary and overmedication of millions of children, which can cause a range of other serious and long-term consequences.

Parents are their children's best advocate as no one knows a child as well as the parent. By observing your child, educating yourself about suspected conditions, having frank conversations with your child's pediatrician, teachers and special education instructors, available resources can be provided that assist your child. With accommodations ranging from adjustments to classroom seating and extra time for test taking to special classes with higher student/teacher ratios to institutionalization for students with moderate to severe forms of cognitive disability.

There are some things all parents can do to help their children even before they reach school age beyond keeping them in good physical and emotional condition. Monitor environmental conditions such as the presence of cigarette smoke and poisons like household cleaning supplies and lead-based paint, and engage your child from birth by reading, talking, playing and interacting with them daily.

Additionally, by being aware of when your child reaches common developmental milestones, observing the pace of his or her learning and academic development, and by tracking your child's behavior and social skills, you will likely be able to

determine if your child should be tested for any conditions.

For children in Oakland public schools, OUSD provides free and appropriate public education to children who qualify for Special Education and related services. If you suspect your child may need such services contact your child's school or Barbara Parker, Health Services Coordinator/District 504 Coordinator directly by email: 504@ousd.k12.ca.us or call (510) 273-1510.

Other local resources: www.rceb.org Regional Center of the East Bay, www.easter-seals.com Easter Seals of the East Bay.

Teen Scene



Oakland Zoo Programs, Workshops, and Volunteer Opportunities for Teens

Teenagers 13 - 18 years old, can explore a wealth of opportunities at the Oakland Zoo.

Whether you want to volunteer, learn the skills of a field biologist, or experience conservation work firsthand, there is sure to be a choice for you. The Zoo's teen programs are fun and engaging, and provide valuable knowledge and leadership skills for school-to-career transitions. To learn more about these opportunities please call the Teen Programs Manager at (510) 632-9525 ext. 201.

KID'S PLAY - SUMMER RIDDLES



- Where do fish keep their money? | **in a riverbank**
- What flies without wings? | **a bird**
- What time is it when 12 cats chase a mouse? | **12 to 1**
- What is gray, has a tail, and a trunk? | **a mouse on vacation**
- Why is it so easy to weigh fish? | **because they have their own scales**

Interested in attending?

- Yes, I would like to attend!
- No, but I would like more information.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

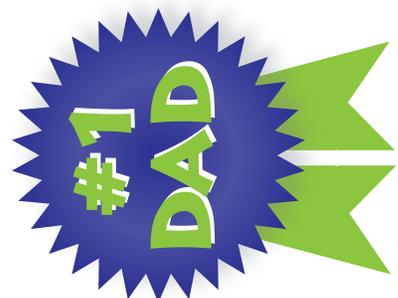
Please complete form and return it to:

FCP West District Office
935 Union Street
Oakland, CA 94607

FCP Office East
1327 65th Avenue
Oakland, CA 94621

Contact (510) 587-5115 to register for the program by June 4, 2014.

We will kick off the program by hosting a Father's Day event.



Don't forget Father's Day
June 15th!



Bullying



In America, bullying has reached epidemic levels. It has many forms and effects on people of all ages. Bullying is particularly problematic for school-age children who often lack the experience and resources to challenge a bully and may feel isolated and alone in their torment. Increasingly, we see reports about adolescents taking drastic action as they respond to being bullied that include violence and, in some rare instances, suicide. Several high profile school shootings were attributed, at least in part, to the perpetrator being bullied. In 12 of 15 school shooting cases in the 1990s, the shooters had a history of being bullied. Whether a child (or adult) is being bullied, is the bully or is a bystander who witnesses the bullying behavior, we all can play a role in reducing bullying and make our schools and communities safer.

According to stopbullying.gov, bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

Cyberbullying is a relatively new phenomenon that occurs with the use of

electronic technology such as cell phones, computers and tablets, as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat, and websites. Examples of cyberbullying includes threatening text messages or emails, rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or the creation of fake profiles.

Children who are cyberbullied are often bullied in person as well online, which is harder to escape because it can happen 24/7 and can also reach a child when he or she is home alone. Cyberbullying messages and images can be posted anonymously and distributed quickly to a very wide audience, therefore it can be difficult, and sometimes impossible, to trace the source. Unfortunately, deleting inappropriate or harassing messages, texts, and pictures is extremely difficult after they have been posted or sent, so making the repercussions go away can feel impossible.

160,000 students stay home from school every day due to bullying.

A bully is **6 times** more likely to be incarcerated by the age of 24.

30% of students who reported they had been bullied said they had at times brought weapons to school.

In schools where there are anti-bullying programs, bullying is reduced by **50%**.

In 2012, a new law known as Seth's Law (AB 9) was signed, requiring public schools in California to update their anti-bullying policies and programs. The Student Bullying Policy of the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) more

fully defines bullying behaviors and gives guidelines for prevention and intervention.

If you believe your child may be the target of harassment or bullying, including cyberbullying, you are encouraged to report your concerns directly to an administrator or staff person at your child's school or fill out the [OUSD Bullying Incident Report Form](#). Submit the completed form to your school's main office or to the Behavioral Health Unit (Family, School and Community Partnerships Department) located at 746 Grand Avenue. Please do not mail the form. To learn more about bully prevention programs at OUSD please call (510) 639-3340 or contact Chen Kong-Wick, Program Manager for Violence Prevention, at chen.kong-wick@ousd.k12.ca.us or (510) 273-1538.

If your child is bullied outside of school, encourage them to report it to a responsible person such as a pastor, neighbor, camp counselor or other trusted adult or leader.

Parents can help protect children from bullying by talking about the problem. Begin by asking, how things are going at school and what they think of the other kids in their classes. Simply asking your child if anyone gets picked on or bullied at school can help protect children.

[Stopbullying.gov](http://www.ousd.k12.ca.us/bullyprevention)
<http://www.ousd.k12.ca.us/bullyprevention>



Men's Group Survey

With Father's Day fast approaching, the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA)

is looking to begin a support group just for men who want support in their role as fathers to children living in OHA housing. If you are interested in being part of something dynamic and life changing answer these questions:

- Are you happy with your relationship with your child(ren)?
- Do you wish there was something different about the relationship you have with your child(ren)?
- Are you looking for employment resources to support your family?
- Would you like to be more actively involved in your community?
- Would you like to learn constructive ways to handle conflict?
- Would you like to have a safe, judgment free forum to discuss issues you face as a man?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this men's group is definitely for you. Please complete the reverse of this cut-out form and return it to an OHA office or to your property administrator.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Get to Know Family and Community Partnerships (FCP)

The best way to learn about the services provided by FCP is by attending one or more orientation class. Once completed you will know all about our programs and supportive services. The class topics coincide with our six areas of service.

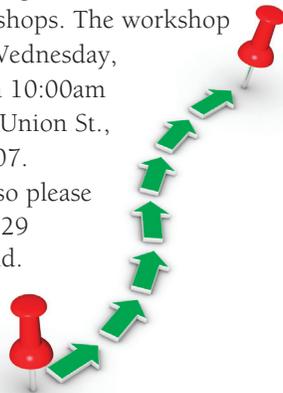
The class topics include:

- Family Self-Sufficiency Program
- Homeownership Program
- Employment Development Program
- Education Initiative and Activities
- Supportive Services
- Civic Engagement and Leadership Development Programs

Please call (510) 587-5115 to reserve a seat and to get more information on orientation dates and times. 🌱

OHA Residents' Road Map to Success Workshops

The FCP Road Map to Success Workshop Series will assist residents in strengthening the skills and techniques necessary to be successful in the areas of personal and employment development. All attendees will have the opportunity to receive a \$25 Target Gift Card for attending 3 Workshops. The workshop series will begin Wednesday, June 4, 2014 from 10:00am to 1:00pm at 935 Union St., Oakland, CA 94607. Seats are limited, so please call (510) 587-5129 to register to attend.



ATTEND ONE OR ALL!

Series Introduction: Discovering Your Why

Wednesday, June 4, 2014
10:00am to 1:00pm

The Leader In You: Going Beyond Your Limits

Wednesday, June 11, 2014
10:00am to 12:00pm

How to Present the Professional You

Wednesday, June 18, 2014
10:00am to 12:00pm

Effective Communication & Interviewing Techniques

Wednesday, June 25, 2014
10:00am to 1:00pm

Creating a Winning Résumé

Wednesday, July 2, 2014
10:00am to 1:00pm

Road Map to Success Graduation

Wednesday, July 9, 2014
10:00am to 1:00pm

SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, August 5



Last year, over 37 million people across the nation participated in a community building event, like a block party, as part of National Night Out (NNO). The nation's night out against crime is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), and is supported by the City of Oakland and the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA). Neighborhood groups that register their event in advance will receive support and supplies. For coordination and registration assistance for the August 5, 2014 NNO, please contact OHA's Omar Ronquillo at (510) 535-3165 or visit <http://natw.org> or <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/nno>.



Oakland Housing
Authority

1619 Harrison Street
Oakland, CA 94612

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Language translation services are available in 151 languages at all offices at no cost.

Los servicios de traducción en 151 idiomas están disponibles en todas las oficinas sin ningún costo.

Truong chính thông dịch đây đủ cho tới 151 tiếng nói miêng phí cho quý vị đang có tại nhiều văn phòng gần đây.

所有辦公地點都會免費提供 151 種的外語翻譯服務。