

DENVER HOUSING AUTHORITY
OPPORTUNITY CENTERS

PURPOSE:

The purpose of DHA Opportunity Centers (OC) is to provide public housing residents with opportunities to improve their economic situation by providing employment, education, life skill and financial supportive services in key DHA locations.

The DHA Opportunity Centers (OC) will provide self sufficiency services in the following areas – The Employment Tract and The Homeownership Tract. Residents can participate in both Tracts simultaneously or in individual Tracts.

DHA Opportunity Centers will be offered in the following five (5) locations throughout Denver:

North Lincoln Community Center

1401 Mariposa Street
Denver, CO 80204

Sun Valley Community Center

990 Alcott Way
Denver, CO 80204

Mulroy Neighborhood Center

3550 W. 13th Avenue
Denver, Co 80204

Westwood Community Center

3401 W. Kentucky Avenue
Denver, CO 80223

Platte Valley Community Center

3050 Champa Street
Denver, CO 80205

Mariposa Opportunity Center (coming in 2012)

1099 Osage Street
Denver, CO 80204

REGISTRATION:

Residents register to participate in the OC and develop a plan for self sufficiency. During registration OC staff explain available services and participant responsibility. OC staff clearly indicate that participants are responsible for meeting all requirements,

including attendance at meetings, appointments and providing all documentation required by the program. OC staff will also clearly indicate that participants who do not continue to meet OC requirements will be terminated from the program and will be unable to re-register for services for at least six months. Participants will be entered into a central database so that all OC staff will have access to pertinent participant data at all OC sites.

ASSESSMENT:

Residents will be required to complete an assessment process in order to participate in OC services. Depending on the initial assessment – additional targeted assessments will be completed for participation in each Tract.

OC Employment Tract

Residents participating in the OC Employment Tract will be working towards increasing current education levels, increasing job skills through computer training or increasing job preparedness through resume writing, interview practice, job search and increased earnings.

OC Homeownership Tract

Residents participating in the OC Homeownership Tract will be working towards reducing debt, increasing credit scores, increasing income, increasing savings, gaining financial and homeownership education.

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP):

An Individual Development Plan (IDP) will be developed with all OC participants following the completion of the comprehensive assessment process. Participants will be offered services from grant funded programs as appropriate. In addition, referrals will be made to community service agencies. The IDP will be updated on a yearly basis if not more frequently.

OC participants will have the opportunity to enroll in the following program components depending on availability and eligibility:

- a. Family Self Sufficiency Program
- b. Resident Opportunities for Self Sufficiency Program
- c. Section 3 Employment Program
- d. Community Service Referrals
- e. Computer Classes
- f. Life Skills Classes
- g. Credit Repair
- h. Employment Referrals
- i. Education Referrals
- j. Senior Services
- k. Support Services Referrals

- l. Afterschool Programs
- m. Child Care Referrals
- n. Homeownership Program

OC PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

In order to clearly track performance in each Opportunity Center Performance Measures will be tracked on a semi-annual basis. Performance measures will be tracked by Center and as a whole programmatically.

OC staff will monitor changes in performance measures to evaluate availability of services, quality of services and evaluation of community needs.

