

Program Overview

The Resident Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Program is designed to help adults and youth living in public housing to overcome barriers, and gain economic self-sufficiency.

The program is self-directed and self-paced and uses tools such as goal setting and program management.

There are two ways to participate in the ROSS Program. Residents can participate by coming to classes and/or events, which are usually advertised through flyers, the ROSS Resident Calendar and/or the Resident Newsletter (Resident Matters).

Residents can also participate in the ROSS Program by working one-on-one with the ROSS Program Coordinator in any of the seven focus areas.

Focus Areas:

Focus areas were chosen based on a resident needs assessment survey conducted in 2019. Responses were collected from Aug -Oct. All WFHA residents were invited to participate in the survey. A total of 191 responses were collected. WFHA residents selected their top needs and barriers. Those responses determined the focus areas for 2020-2023.

Focus Areas:

Health & Wellness
Employment
Education
Transportation
Elderly/Disabled Resident Support
Legal Assistance
Financial Support

Services Provided through Focus Areas

Health & Wellness:

- Nutrition Education and Cooking Classes
- Assistance applying for health insurance
- Assistance scheduling medical appointments

Employment:

- Hiring Events & Job Fairs (Teens & Adults)
- Assistance paying for Food Handler's Card, TX ID card/Driver's License, for employment

Education:

- Assistance paying for GED tests
- Assistance applying for FAFSA
- Assistance applying for college, trade school
- Annual Scholarship Essay Writing Workshop

Transportation:

- Bus Passes for healthcare appointments
- Bus Passes for Job trainings & interviews
- Bus Passes for educational services
- Bus Passes to work (case by case)
- Taxi Rides to work (new hires, case-by-case)

Elderly/Disabled Support

- Assistance applying for Social Security & other benefits
- Assistance coordinating services

Legal Assistance:

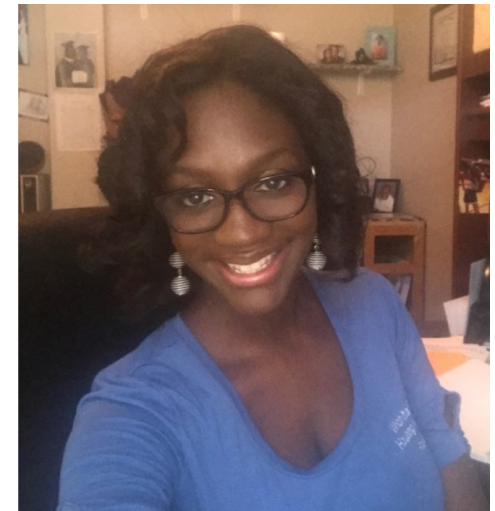
- Legal Aid Meetings held on-site, monthly

Financial Support:

- Free Tax preparation
- Assistance opening bank accounts

Meet the ROSS Coordinator

Hello! My name is Paris Ward & I love being the ROSS Coordinator at the WF Housing Authority! I am from Flint, MI & have one daughter and one son. I have a Bachelor of Science in Counseling and Psychology & a Master of Arts in Organizational Management. I've worked at WFHA since Nov 2012 and I've been the ROSS Coordinator since Aug 2014. As a single mother, I have definitely overcome lots of barriers and challenges. I enjoy seeing my residents make gains & become self-sufficient. My life's motto is "***Make today's struggles into tomorrow's testimonies***"



Program Enrollment

If you think that you would benefit from being in the ROSS Program, please schedule a meeting with Paris Ward, ROSS Coordinator:

Phone: 940-687-2450
Email: paris@wfha.com
In Person: Paul Irwin Center
115 East Wichita St.