



Volume 4, Issue 5

ABILENE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Newsletter Date:  
September 30, 2011

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## Special Points of Interest:

**HCV Tenants & LL's:** We are still searching for two tenants. All landlord spots are filled on our HCV Advisory Committee. If you are interested, contact **Brandy Cockrell @ 325-676-6385 ext. 6389** or at [brandy.cockrell@abileneha.org](mailto:brandy.cockrell@abileneha.org).

**Landlords:** Rent increases should be submitted to AHA 60-90 days prior to your tenant's recertification date. If you are unaware of these dates, contact **Brandy Cockrell @ 325-676-6385 ext. 6389** or email her at: [brandy.cockrell@abileneha.org](mailto:brandy.cockrell@abileneha.org).

### REMINDER!

**Landlords:** are responsible for enforcing their lease & collecting the tenant's rental portion.

**Tenants:** are responsible for paying their portion of the rent to the landlord by the date agreed upon in the lease.

**Landlords:** it is illegal to charge Housing Choice Voucher participants more in rent than you charge your open market tenants.

**Tenants:** removing the battery from a smoke detector is a safety risk. In addition, check to make sure that your smoke detectors are working properly. If not, bring it to your landlord's attention immediately.

**Landlords & Tenants:** landlords &/or tenants are not allowed to change who pays for utilities without the approval of Abilene Housing Authority.

## September 2011: Community Involvement!



## WTIN Program: *Entrepreneur Program!*

Tim Evans (FSS Coordinator), Tanya Johnson (Resident Services Coordinator) & Gene Reed (Executive Director) of the Abilene Housing Authority (AHA) participated in West Texas Innovation Network (WTIN) kick-off celebration and Community Leadership Training program on *October 3, 2011*. The event was hosted at the Abilene Christian University (ACU) Welcome Center.

The Community Leadership Training focused on developing small business by cultivating entrepreneurs and their development. The program address topics such as the benefits of entrepreneurship, positioning your community for success, understanding entrepreneurs, community support & many more topics! The course was taught by Greg Clary, PhD, Economist.



WTIN & AHA are actively exploring ways to work together through this program. AHA's Family Self-Sufficiency program participants and other program participants are interested in starting their own businesses & have questions about what it takes to become a successful entrepreneur.

AHA's appreciates WTIN's efforts to initiate this valuable program in West Central Texas!

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## FSS Grant Award: *Funding for 2012!*

On *September 30, 2011*, HUD notified the Abilene Housing Authority (AHA) that we were once again awarded the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Grant to provide funding for our FSS Coordinator! This funding will allow AHA to continue to focus on assisting families in meeting their personal and financial goals of becoming self-sufficient!





**Direct Deposit Payments**

**Landlords:** Do you know about our Direct Deposit program? It allows for your Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) to be electronically deposited into your bank account on the first business day of the month! Not only does it give you quicker access to your money, but it is also more cost-effective for the AHA. The process to get set-up is quick and easy. For more information on "Direct Deposit" contact Paul Falade (CFO) at 325-676-6385 ext. 5320 or email him at [paul.falade@abileneha.org](mailto:paul.falade@abileneha.org)

As of July 1, 2011 Direct Deposit was mandatory for all landlords.

“The only limit to your impact is your imagination and commitment.”

Tony Robbins



**Abilene Housing Authority Family Self-Sufficiency Program**

Assisting families to achieve financial self-sufficiency. For more information about this program contact Tim Evans at 325-676-6385 ext. 5326 or email him at [Tim.Evans@abileneha.org](mailto:Tim.Evans@abileneha.org).

**Interested in Applying? *Online Application***

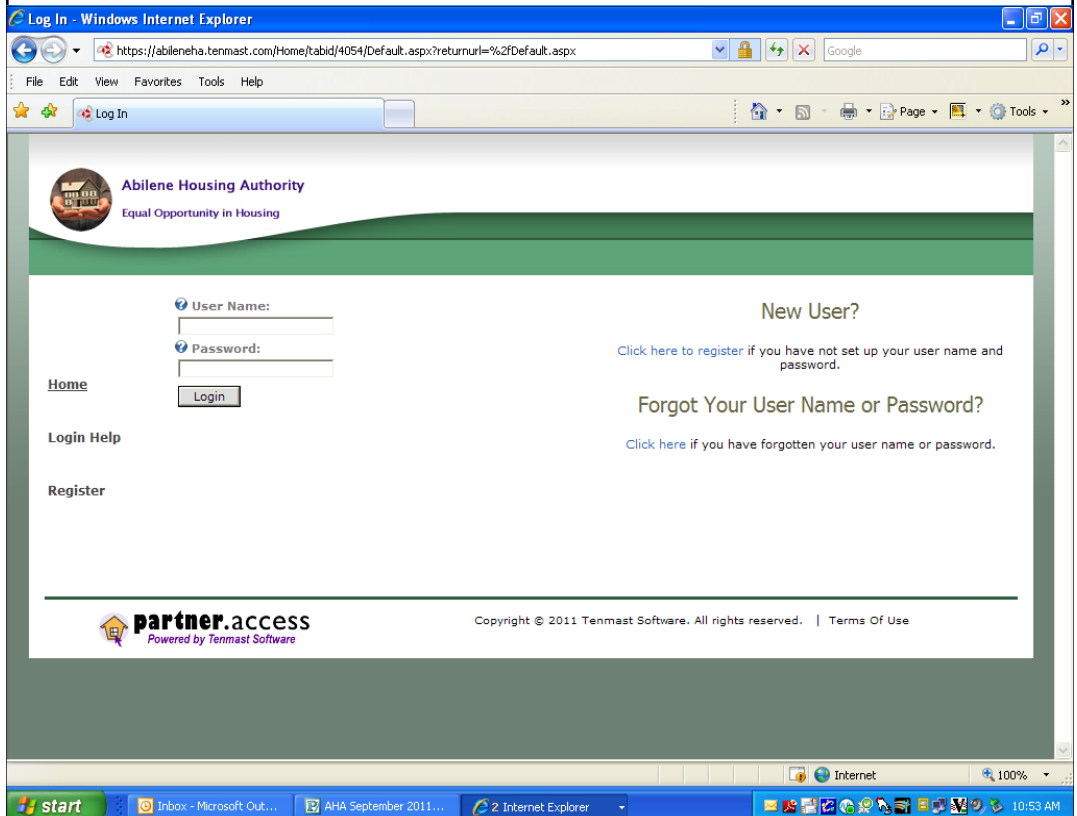
AHA has online applications for interested applicants on its website. When you access our website at [www.abileneha.org](http://www.abileneha.org) click on the second tab and follow the easy-to-use process. You can choose from the Public Housing Waiting Lists and/or the Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List. Once you complete the online application you are automatically placed on the Waiting List(s) of your choice!



**Landlord Access Portal: *October 1, 2011 Deadline!***

On July 1, 2011 AHA implemented the mandatory **Direct Deposit** program for all HCV landlords. This program has been a tremendous success for our landlords! Thank you to our landlords for working with AHA on the change!

AHA would like to remind all landlords on the HCV program that as of October 1, 2011, AHA will no longer send emails or any other correspondence in relation to landlord Housing Assistance Payments (HAP). This system has been automated for your convenience. If you still need to sign up for access to the **Landlord Access Portal** please visit our website at [www.abileneha.org](http://www.abileneha.org) (HCV Landlord Information/Landlord Access) to sign up on-line. If you have any questions about the new system please contact Brandy Cockrell (HCV Manager) at 325-676-6385 ext. 6389 or email her at [brandy.cockrell@abileneha.org](mailto:brandy.cockrell@abileneha.org). *Landlord Access Portal screen shot below:*





“The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes.”

Earl of Beaconsfield

**HUD-VASH Summit: *HUD Fort Worth Office!***

On *September 13, 2011*, AHA was invited to the HUD Fort Worth Field Office to participate in the second HUD-VASH Summit. AHA, Executive Director, Gene Reed, was asked to be on the panel to discuss program “Best Practices.” There were numerous other Housing Authorities from across the state.  
The Summit was held to determine program road blocks and problems and to generate discussion on how to best overcome these obstacles.

**New Employees: *Raven Williams & Amber Leggett!***

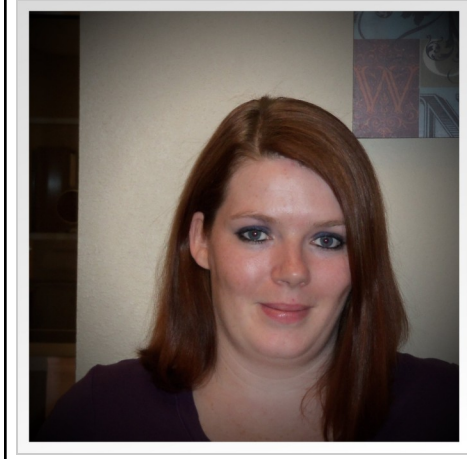


**HUD-VASH PROGRAM**

The HUD-VASH program is designed to assist Homeless Veterans find counseling through the VAMC and housing with rental assistance provided by AHA. **56** families have been housed so far!



Please join the Abilene Housing Authority (AHA) in welcoming two of its newest employees! **Raven Williams** (*pictured below on the left*) was hired to fill the HCV Housing Specialist position & **Amber Leggett** (*pictured below on the right*) was hired to fill the Public Housing - Housing Counselor position. Both ladies started off as Temporary employees. Each stepped right in and showed ownership in their positions and created value! AHA is proud to make them a part of the TEAM!





“The searching-out and thorough investigation of truth ought to be the primary study of man.”

Cicero

**ARRA UPDATE:**

**AHA expended 100% of its \$391,884 ARRA Grant award in 2010!**



The Great Barrier Reef!

**Job Opportunities: *Always Seeking Go-Getters!***



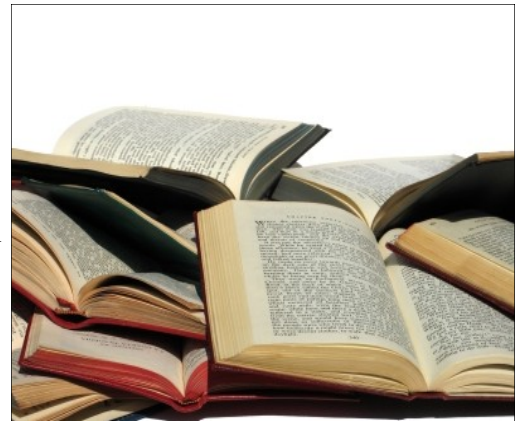
Abilene Housing Authority (AHA) has the following job opening (s):

**None At This Time**

Visit our website @ [www.abileneha.org](http://www.abileneha.org) for the detailed job description.

**Employee Training: *Supervisory Skills, Section 3 & FSS!***

In *September 2011*, employees continued receiving training. Cynthia Rodriguez (Procurement & Compliance Coordinator) attended Section 3 training. Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator, Tim Evans completed FSS training. Brandy Cockrell & John David Alonzo completed Supervisory training!

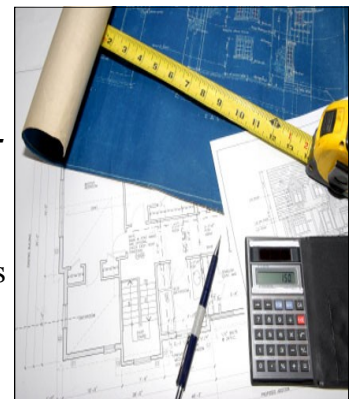


**AHA Website: *Promoting Business Opportunities!***

Businesses interested in working with AHA are invited to visit our website. AHA added the “Business Opportunities” section to its website in 2009 to offer a variety of procurement information to the public. In addition to providing printable versions of current RFP’s, IFB’s and RFQ’s, this section of the website provides information on becoming a vendor, contracting requirements, cooperative purchasing affiliations, Minority Business Enterprises and Women’s Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE’s), and Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.

*Section 3 is a policy for providing preference to low and very low-income residents of the community and the businesses that employ these persons; without consideration of race or gender. AHA has included a model plan on its website for businesses to follow.*

For more information concerning business opportunities and Section 3, please contact **Cynthia Rodriguez** at (325)676-6385 ext. 6332 or email her at [cynthia.rodriquez@abileneha.org](mailto:cynthia.rodriquez@abileneha.org).





**AHA — Providing Homes for Families**

# ABILENE HOUSING AUTHORITY

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Abilene, TX 79601

Phone: 325-676-6385  
Fax: 325-676-6375  
Relay Services:  
711 or 1-800-RelayTX

Customer Service Email Address:  
helpdesk@abileneha.org



## Mission Statement:

The Housing Authority's mission is to service the housing needs of low-income families in the Authority's jurisdiction in order to enhance self-sufficiency and promote community quality of life and economic viability.

## Vision Statement:

We will be recognized as a leading authority in moderate and low-income community development activities in West Texas.

**We're on the web: <http://www.abileneha.org>**

## AHA Board of Commissioners - Contact Email Addresses:

Larry Holmes - **Chair** - [larryholmes@aol.com](mailto:larryholmes@aol.com)

Vanessa Faz - **Vice-Chair** - [vfaz@ffin.com](mailto:vfaz@ffin.com)

Kiddy Boswell - **Secretary** - [kiddyboswell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kiddyboswell@sbcglobal.net)

Mica Jones - **Board Commissioner** - [semica.jones@gmail.com](mailto:semica.jones@gmail.com)

David Mukire - **Resident Commissioner** - [dmukire@ymail.com](mailto:dmukire@ymail.com)

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