

3 Job Postings

File Clerk

Full-time position available in Belleville, NJ for File Clerk at popular hospital. Responsibilities include performing a variety of clerical duties, scheduling exams, general typing and handling telephone calls. Compensation includes a generous health, dental and 401(k) savings plan and paid holidays. HSD or GED required. One year experience preferred.

Guest Services Receptionist

Local law firm (in Bayonne) has an exciting full-time position available for receptionist. Duties include: receiving clients, handling phone calls, vendors, deliveries, pages, etc. Applicants must be professional and responsive to client's needs in a fast paced environment. Two years receptionist experience required along with knowledge of MS Office, a HSD or GED. Hours are 12pm-8pm. Salary is competitive with excellent benefits including medical, dental and vision.

Hotel Opportunity

Jersey City hotel, located downtown, has two full-time positions available; Administrative Assistant and Gallery Host. The ideal candidate will be able to type at least 50wpm and have excellent communications skills. In addition, the applicant should be available to work a flexible schedule. Should be able to lift luggage (minimum 20 lbs) and assist guests with directions and transportation needs. HSD or GED required. Salary will be discussed during the interview.

Concierge/Security Guard

Security Company in Hackensack has full and part-time positions available for concierge and security posts. Flexible shifts are available. Training is available for State Security License. Free uniforms provided. Starting salary is \$8.97 per hour. Candidates should be able to clear security check and pass a drug test.

Customer Service Representative

Full-time Customer Service Representative position available in Kearny, NJ. This company is looking for self-motivated people to work 1st shift at \$12.00 per hour, handling all day-to-day customer service telephone calls. Candidates should be able to interact with both customers and company drivers. Free vacation is part of the hire package at the company's vacation lodge in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Line Prep/ Cooks/ Servers

Immediate full and part-time positions available at convenient Jersey City steakhouse. Also, looking for kitchen staff and waiters and waitresses. Must apply in person and have some experience. Will train the right applicants. Salary (hourly) with benefits for full-time help.

Would you like to update your current resume, or get started on a new one today? Stop by the CSS Office for information and or/ applications, or call (201) 547-3720 (Lafayette Gardens)

4 Dear HOPE VI Resident

Something new! We want to hear from you!

The CSS Newsletter is adding a new column in the next issue: Resident Point of View. We invite Lafayette Gardens and A. Harry Moore residents to submit information to be printed in the newsletter. Residents can submit updates, questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. You may submit information you want included in the newsletter in the Newsletter Boxes located in the A. Harry Moore Management Office and the Lafayette CSS Office at Booker T. Washington Apts.

5 Did You Know?

• Did you know there is still time to submit your PACO applications if you are a low-income family? Assistance with applications is available Monday through Friday 9am – 5pm. Contact Kevin Burnett in the CSS office (201) 547-3721. The deadline for submission is March 31, 2009. Eligibility depends on family size and income.

• CSS would like to begin another Basic Computer Skills Workshop for housing residents. Preference will be given to Lafayette Gardens residents. If you are interested in the classes, please contact Brenda Davis at the CSS office (201) 547-8960. Class space is limited to the first ten residents that enroll. Location for the classes will be at the Curries Woods Community Resources Center (CRC). Classes will be held in the evenings, twice a week.

• Rutgers Cooperative Nutritional Program is holding another nutritional workshop for all residents. Space is limited to 15 participants and classes are expected to start in March. For additional information regarding the workshops, please contact the CSS office at (201) 547-3721. All participants who complete the workshop will be given a certificate of achievement and learn various ways to eat and live healthier. If you are diabetic or suffering from high blood pressure, this is the class to help you create a whole new way of eating. Instructors are Certified Nutritionists. Classes begin at noon, once a week and will commence on March 17, 2009.

• Do you need a new suit for that job interview you expect to be going on in the near future? CSS has resources through Dress For Success to help you get the clothes to snag that job. This resource can assist you with the interview outfit and styling your wardrobe for the important meeting. If you would like assistance, CSS can make a referral to Dress For Success since they only accept referrals from other agencies. Please contact the CSS office at (201) 547-3721 and ask for Kevin Burnett. Don't delay - your suit is waiting for you today.

6 Development Meetings

So that you can plan ahead, the Lafayette Gardens HOPE VI Task Force meetings are generally scheduled every second Thursday of the month at the Lafayette Senior Living Center at 6:00 p.m.



7 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable tax credit for working families and individuals. It increases the amount refunded to a taxpayer or reduces the amount of tax owed. The amount of the credit varies according to income and family size.

New Jersey wage earners can also take advantage of the state's own expanded EITC program. Wage earners who are eligible and file for a Federal earned income credit can also receive a New Jersey credit in the amount equal to 20% of their Federal benefit. Previously, New Jersey set the income eligibility limit for families at \$20,000.

Who is eligible? Working parents are eligible for the EITC if their child(ren) lived with them for at least half the year. Foster parents are eligible if their foster child(ren) lived with them for more than half of the year. Wage earners not raising children may also qualify for the federal EITC.

How much? The credit is based on gross earned income, filing status, and the number of any qualifying children in the home.

• Families with two or more children who earn less than \$38,646 in 2008 (\$41,646 if married filing jointly) are eligible for a credit of up to \$4,824.

• Families with one child who earn less than \$33,995 in 2008 (\$36,995 if married filing jointly) are eligible for a credit of up to \$2,917.

• Working individuals age 25 to 65 without a qualifying child who earn less than \$12,880 in 2008 (\$15,880 if married filing jointly) are eligible for a credit of up to \$438.

Free tax assistance is available to individuals with low or moderate income, seniors, and people with disabilities. Seniors can get tax preparation help at Tax-Aide sites around the state. Other qualifying taxpayers can go to Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. A list of VITA and Tax-Aide sites in New Jersey can be found at <http://www.njcommunityresources.info/njvitatcesites.xls> provided here through the cooperation of the IRS and Congressman Steve Rothman's office. The list is saved as an Excel spreadsheet, current as of January 18, 2008 and subject to change. You may wish to call the Tax-Aide or VITA site to schedule an appointment.

For more information about the federal Earned Income Tax Credit or to contact one of the Taxpayer Assistance Centers throughout Jersey City where you can receive help in preparing an individual tax return, call the IRS at 800.829.1040. You can also contact the New Jersey Department of Taxation at (888) 895-9179. Tax help is also available from AARP by calling 888-AARP NOW (888) 227-7669. Another way to locate the nearest free tax preparation site is by calling 2-1-1 and inquiring about tax assistance.

8 CSS Office Information

Lafayette CSS Program:
open Monday through
Friday from 9 a.m. to
5 p.m. and Wednesdays
until 7 p.m.

Lafayette Gardens CSS Program

60 Fremont Street
Apt. 325
Jersey City, NJ 07302
Phone: (201) 547-3720
Fax: (201) 547-3838

Brenda Davis, CSS Coordinator
Kevin Burnett, CSS Coordinator

9 Senior's Corner

Seniors can lower their death risk with just a little more daily activity, according to a recent report in the Senior Journal online magazine. The article reveals that older adults who spend more energy through any sort of daily activity live longer than their less active counterparts. The report also indicates that exerting energy needn't come from simply exercising. You can live longer by walking or moving your arms from a seated position.

The National Institute on Aging in Bethesda, Maryland conducted a study which found that seniors who exerted higher levels of activity were associated with a lower risk of death. Those who did not exert any energy faced a higher death risk, along with existing medical conditions. In the three groups that were studied (high level daily activity, moderate level daily activity, low level of daily activity), the group that demonstrated the most daily activity showed beneficial health results and lowered their risk for dying. The participants were tracked over a seven year period. The study concluded that "efforts to increase or maintain activity expenditure will likely improve the health of older people," this according to Todd M. Manini, Ph.D. with the institute.

The report also suggests that it is not important to cram a bunch of exercises into one day, instead focus on a goal set by you and your doctor for the whole week. According to the study on aging, the amount of exercise one gets in a week makes the difference. Dr. Manini encourages seniors who can walk to start a walking program and stick to it if they can. Walking briskly for 12 miles a week is sufficient for heart health, the study reports.

Seniors living in nursing homes or senior complexes are encouraged to participate in walking groups where a supervisor with a health background can monitor them for overexertion. Elderly people, who cannot walk a quarter mile over a week's time may need to do other physical activities. As always, seniors starting any exercise program or exerting any physical activity should check with their physician to determine if they're able to begin such a program.

10 Jersey City Events

2nd Annual "Everything Jersey City Festival"

The Central Avenue S.I.D. Management Corporation (CASID) is pleased to announce that the second annual Everything Jersey City Festival will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2009! Events and activities include:

• A fresh entertainment lineup featuring "Queen of Freestyle" Judy Torres and many more artists from Jersey City and beyond

• Hundreds of exhibitor booths featuring festival food, arts, crafts, novelties and local businesses and community organizations

• Kid's rides and attractions

...and another big dose of the positive community spirit that makes our city great!!

Please check the CASID web site for details and updates.
http://jcheights.server311.com/atwork-EJCF_2009.shtml



Community & Supportive Services (CSS) Program Newsletter

Lafayette Gardens & A. Harry Moore HOPE VI Revitalization Programs

JCHA Board of Commissioners
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Vice-Chairperson Raj Mukherji
Commissioner Della Womack
Commissioner Edward Cheatham
Commissioner John Garvey
Commissioner Darice Toon
Commissioner Freddie Kitcheens
Executive Director Maria T. Maio



11 Homeownership Program Seminars For Residents!

If you are a resident at a public housing site, a HOPE VI site, or are a Section 8 participant and are interested in homeownership, the JCHA is offering the following Homeownership Program Seminars to assist you in preparing to purchase a home. You are invited to attend any or all of these seminars. Please Note: You must complete the entire training program before you purchase a home at Dwight Street Homes or with Section 8 assistance.

All classes are from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and will be held at: Curries Woods Revitalization Community Center, 65-67 Ruby Brown Terrace

Please Note: You also have the option to complete a similar homeownership-training program given by a non-profit counseling agency. Two local agencies are: NJ Citizen Action (800) 656-9637 or Episcopal Community Development Corp. (201) 209-9301 ext 300. These agencies may charge \$15.00 - \$20.00 to obtain your credit report.

- April 1 Budgeting and Understanding Credit
- April 8 The Mortgage Process and Types of Mortgages
- April 15 Shopping for a Home and Fair Housing Laws
(This is a required seminar for Section 8 participants; all others are welcome to participate.)
- April 22 Home Inspection
- April 29 Becoming a Landlord
(This is a required seminar for Dwight Street homebuyers; all others are welcome to participate.)
- May 5 Closing on a Home and Legal Issues
- May 13 Insurance and Taxes for Property Owners
- May 20 After the Purchase-Maintaining Your Home

To reserve a seat or for additional information, please contact Patricia Price, Homeownership Programs Officer at (201) 547-6724.

12 Who is ACORN?

ACORN is the nation's largest grassroots community organization of low- and moderate-income people with over 400,000 member families. Since 1970, ACORN has been building community organizations that are committed to social and economic justice, and won victories on thousands of issues of concern to our members, through direct action, negotiation, legislative advocacy and voter participation.

Community organizing: Each of the 1,200 local ACORN neighborhood chapters in 110 cities and 40 states brings neighbors together to work for stronger, safer and more just communities.

Issue campaigns: Each ACORN office carries out multiple issue campaigns. ACORN members across the country work to raise the minimum wage or enact living wage policies; eliminate predatory financial practices by mortgage lenders, payday lenders, and tax preparation companies; win the development of affordable housing and community benefits agreements; improve the quality

of and funding for urban public schools; rebuild New Orleans; and pass a federal and state ACORN Working Families Agenda, including paid sick leave for all full time workers.

Service delivery: ACORN and its allied organizations provide extensive services to our members and constituency. These include free tax preparation focusing on the Earned Income Tax Credit; screening for eligibility for federal and state benefit programs; and, through the ACORN Housing Corporation, first time homeowner mortgage counseling and foreclosure prevention assistance, and low income housing development.

Voter participation: Since 2004, ACORN has helped more than 1.7 million low- and moderate-income and minority citizens apply to register to vote.

For more information, visit ACORN at www.acorn.org or call them at (201) 963-9132.

1 A. Harry Moore Development Update

The last residents are finally moving from A. Harry Moore. The JCHA is now beginning the process of securing the 3 high rises preparatory to their demolition. The very good news from Washington is that the JCHA was awarded extra capital funding as part of the nationwide economic stimulus funding from Congress. Part of this funding will be used by the JCHA to demolish the three high rises.

At the same time, Pennrose Properties, LLC, the JCHA's private developer partner for the remaining A. Harry Moore Revitalization, is preparing a Tax Credit funding application for another 60 mixed-income rental units on-site. This application will be submitted in early April and the State should make their funding decision by early July.

Gloria Robinson Court Homes II construction is on schedule. We anticipate beginning the applicant selection process in early fall of this year. Once again, former A. Harry Moore residents will have a preference for occupancy. We will keep residents informed as we get closer to completion.

2 Lafayette Gardens Development Update

At long last, the first families have moved into Barbara Place Terrace and full completion is expected in mid-April!

Rose Correano of Interstate Realty Management Company is handling applicant selection from an office at the Lafayette Senior Center. Her number is (201) 395-0900. If you have questions about your application, you may call Rose.

If you are selected for an apartment, you MUST give your landlord advanced notice. If you now have a Section 8 voucher, you must give your landlord and the Section 8 Department at least 30 days notice in writing. If you live in a public housing apartment, you must give your manager written notice as soon as you know you have an apartment. If you need assistance with the notice, Kevin Burnett has form notices that you can use.

If you are in a public housing apartment and you move over a weekend, you may start your move on Friday and return your keys to the manager first thing on Monday. Otherwise, you must arrange your move to happen in one day. Federal rules state that a resident cannot occupy two public housing apartments at the same time. If you move in the middle of a month, you will have to pay a partial month's rent at the site from which you move. For example, if you move on April 15, you will owe 15 days worth of rent to the JCHA.

Trena Hinton will assist residents with relocation moving money. She will also assist residents who would like a security deposit loan. Trena's phone number is to the right.

If you need assistance with getting utilities turned on in your name, please contact Kevin Burnett at the CSS Office.

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DIRECTORY

Kevin Burnett
Lafayette Gardens
CSS Coordinator
(201) 547-3721

Brenda Davis
Lafayette Gardens
CSS Coordinator
(201) 547-3721

Trena Hinton
Relocation Officer
(201) 547- 8987 x 30

