



## Fort Worth Housing Solutions and City Selected for HUD EnVision Program

HUD announced today that it has selected Fort Worth Housing Solutions and the city of Fort Worth to be a site for the EnVision Demonstration program. Only 17 sites across the U.S. were chosen in a competitive application process.

One of Secretary Ben Carson's signature initiatives, EnVision Centers will offer HUD-assisted families access to support services that can help them achieve self-sufficiency.

"We're honored and thrilled that we've been selected by HUD to serve as one of the nation's new EnVision Centers," said Mary-Margaret Lemons, president of Fort Worth Housing Solutions. "We'll now be working closely with the City and our many community partners to begin planning for a Center that will successfully support the efforts of low-income families across the region to achieve their self-sufficiency goals."

To be located at the Martin Luther King Community Center in East Fort Worth, the EnVision Center will be a centralized hub that serves as an incubator to support four key pillars of self-sufficiency- (1) Economic Empowerment, (2) Educational Advancement, (3) Health and Wellness, and (4) Character and Leadership.

To learn more about Secretary Carson's EnVision Center demonstration, please visit [HUD.gov/EnVisionCenters](http://HUD.gov/EnVisionCenters).

## Congratulating Terri Attaway for 20 Years of Service

Fort Worth Housing Solutions recently celebrated Board Chairwoman Terri Attaway's 20 years of service on the Board of Commissioners. During her tenure, Ms. Attaway has helped the organization make major strides for affordable



Mary-Margaret Lemons, President (left), Terri Attaway (right)

housing in Fort Worth and craft programs that help residents become more self-sufficient.

Ms. Attaway's commitment to educating the community and dispelling the stereotypes of public and assisted housing has helped the agency provide housing in places that 20 years ago were not options for our residents. Her professional background as a residential real estate

broker and mortgage consultant have fueled her leadership and support for the agency's myriad programs that help people "move up and out" of housing assistance.

Ms. Attaway has always been a strong supporter of residents and makes sure that the decisions the agency makes are in their best interest. She continues to fight for the communities we serve to ensure that families in need can find homes and resources to sustain themselves. As we reflect on her 20 years of service, we honor Terri Attaway for her contributions and continued commitment to our agency.

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## Rapid Re-Housing: It Worked

Robert Michael Ryan wants everyone to know that the Rapid Re-Housing program works just the way it should; it lifted him out of a desperate situation and got him back on his feet. Homeless for most of 2017, Michael now works full-time, pays 100% of the rent at his Woodhaven



apartment, and plans to buy a used car as soon as he can. "We're so proud of him!" says April Jordan, a housing counselor at Fort Worth Housing Solutions.

A collaboration between Fort Worth Housing Solutions and My Health My Resources, Rapid Re-Housing is a six- to nine-month intervention for people who are homeless. Case managers help the individuals find housing and support them while they look for a job. A short-term housing subsidy provides a cushion while clients work toward self-sufficiency.

"It worked just as it is designed to do," Michael says of the program. "I am earning a living wage with savings that affords me the opportunity to replace the things I lost during the past year, but most important I am regaining my feelings of self-worth that had been significantly challenged as a homeless person."

Rapid Re-Housing has been implemented in communities across the U.S. and found to

be a successful and cost-effective way to end homelessness for many. Says Michael: "It is truly a blessing that has changed my life."



## Homeownership Program Puts "American Dream" in Reach

Families participating in the agency's Housing Choice Voucher Program may be eligible for help with purchasing the home of their dreams! Developed by HUD in 2000, the Housing Voucher Homeownership program helps participants with mortgage expenses such as home insurance, maintenance, utilities, mortgage payments and more. The program works similarly to the rental assistance program in that clients pay 30 percent of their monthly-adjusted income toward mortgage expenses and the housing authority covers the other portion. Here are some of the stringent eligibility requirements:

- Participate in the Housing Choice Voucher Program for one year or more
- Earn at least \$16,000.00 annually
- Be a first-time home buyer as defined by HUD
- Be able to make a minimum down payment of 3% of sales price
- Be able to pay 1% of minimum down payment with personal funds
- Complete extensive pre-purchase education, training and counseling

To learn more, visit [our website](#). FWHS is also a sponsor of the [15th Annual Fort Worth Housing Summit](#), which offers workshops like "Home Buying 101: Ready to Buy in Today's Real Estate Market," "Obtaining a Mortgage Loan" and "Down Payment Assistance and Homeownership Counseling." The event will be held Saturday, June 23 from 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Cendera Center - 3600 Benbrook Highway Fort Worth, 76116. The event is free, but registration is required. For Summit information and to register, click [here](#).

## Homeownership, as told by Angela Ned

*"You don't have to always be in affordable housing or paying apartment rent.*

***You can own a home!"***

Angela Ned, who recently moved from Butler place to her newly built and affordable home in

Stallion Pointe, looks forward to owning a home in the future! Watch her



video [here](#).

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## Community Coffees aim to engage with public about affordable housing

Sip a cup of java and learn some new things about affordable housing at an upcoming Community Coffee hosted by Fort Worth Housing Solutions. These come-and-go events are designed for residents to ask questions and talk with staff from both the agency and the city. Residents can learn why there is a growing need for affordable housing and where some of the most attractive new properties are located or being built. The next Community Coffee is Sat. June 16 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Hillside Apartments in Fort Worth. Join us!

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