



## ► Creating paths to economic security

About 30 percent of the people SHA serves are of working age and ability and most are working one or more jobs. SHA is committed to helping these tenants maximize their potential. More than 600 tenants are actively enrolled in SHA's JobLink program, receiving assistance with finding a job, getting a better job, enrolling in training and education or starting a small business. Thirteen percent of tenants enrolled in JobLink have a disability.

### **Increasing opportunities, education and employment**

SHA Career Coaches serve as personal advocates and provide individualized support, encouragement and resources. Tenants are connected to childcare, transportation and other services they need to pursue their goals.

### **Tailoring to the tenants needs**

A flexible range of services helps meet needs in the right way, from light guidance for tenants who are motivated, well connected and just need a little support to tenants who have faced more challenges and need deeper support. This customized support ensures SHA is maximizing use of resources to help everyone be more successful.

### **Ensuring access to technology**

Access to technology is an essential part of helping people advance their employment opportunities and SHA works to ensure tenants have the computer equipment and digital training they need to employ technology in their job search.

### **Honing financial skills**

JobLink offers opportunities for tenants to improve their financial management skills including budgeting, managing debt, improving credit scores, building assets and learning about homebuying opportunities. Participants who maintain qualifying new full-time employment for five months accrue a \$200 savings credit monthly until reaching a total of \$5,000. Approximately 110 tenants are currently accruing savings credits.

An immigrant father's new truck driving training and employment is building economic stability for his family.

### Jumpstarting careers

SHA helps people engage in the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's **Section 3 program** and get connected with special opportunities by which business owners receive preference in bidding on HUD-funded contracts by hiring qualified, low-income applicants. More than 40 percent of SHA staff members were originally hired as Section 3 participants.

### Accessing employment with SHA

Through JobLink, many positions in SHA's Property Management, Community Services, Housing Choice Voucher and other divisions are filled by SHA tenants. SHA is modeling for other employers that people with low incomes coming out of job training or lower-level positions can become highly successful employees.

### Supporting young adults exiting foster care

At age 18, many young people who have been in the foster care system are aging out and have no other safety net. SHA provides **housing vouchers** for many of these people as they begin to build their own lives and about 70 percent of them are working with SHA Career Coaches to further their education and obtain jobs. Often young people who have been in foster care are experiencing trauma; SHA Career Coaches are trained to provide trauma-informed support as they help young people build a new life and career path that will offer stability and security.

A former foster youth secured a full-time job he enjoys and set up a savings system for the first time in his life, proudly saving \$11,000.

A mother with a degree in Child Development fulfilled all requirements for her license and opened a childcare center in her home.

