

Family Self-Sufficiency

January

2020

Salina Housing Authority

469 South 5th, Salina KS 67401

January 1

New Years Day—CLOSED

January 2nd

LIEAP applications will be available at DCF on January 2nd, 2020.

Applications must be completed and submitted by March 31, 2020.

For FSS participants only, If you need assistance completing the application itself, please contact me and I will help you complete it. Please call to schedule an appointment.

January 11

National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness

January 20

Martin Luther King Jr Day—
CLOSED

The World Around You

2020 US Census

Now this is serious stuff! Do you really know how important completing the US Census is?! Over the next few months you will begin to receive information about the 2020 Census. Please read the information and follow directions accordingly. Why? What is the census? Per 2020 Census website, the count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. The 2020 Census counts the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire—online, by phone, or by mail. This will mark the first time that you will be able to respond to the census online. <https://2020census.gov/en/what-is-2020-census.html> The Census is nothing to be fearful of. The information taken is something many of us give out regularly.

For Salina, having the appropriate count helps determine which stores and recreational activities are considered for our area. The census is important for our community as it helps to allocate funding appropriately per the number of citizens in the community for schools, housing and jobs. Your participation counts!

BTW—Looking for just some added income to build your savings? The 2020 US Census is hiring! Just go to <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html> to apply. The US Census pays upward to \$15-17 per hour for temporary employment!

SH.A Mission Statement

The Salina Housing Authority is dedicated to providing and advocating affordable, safe living environments and opportunities to become self-sufficient for persons of very low to moderate income

Money in the Bank

After two months of holidays, everyone is feeling their pockets are screaming! I have been hearing everyone is waiting for their W-2s so they can begin the tax refund process so they can catch up and buy what they have been wanting all year. How about a change in mindset? How about instead of using tax refunds to replenish funds or to purchase things we think we “need” but rather build anticipation to use tax refunds to increase bank accounts. This mindset is actively being aware of how you view savings, budgeting and planning. This should be something done year round so when receiving your refund, it can be utilized to maintain your account and not your everyday life.

One secret to good budgeting habits is to pay yourself first. Just like you pay a bill faithfully, financially investing in your future is just as important. Consider opening a savings account that is untouched. This account should only be used for the future such as a down payment on a home, a car, child’s college education, unforeseen events/emergencies such as car repairs or medical expenses.

First look at paying yourself monthly. Let’s think about it! If you are paid bi-weekly and you put \$25 each pay period into your savings by the end 2020 you would have \$600! Next, consider investing at least 50% (hopefully more) into your savings from your tax return every year. One thing emphasized in FSS is budgeting and managing funds appropriately. Where are you in your budgeting practices now? Have you assessed what you are spending unnecessarily? What can you reduce? How many times are you eating out per week? These were all on your budget worksheet from October. With the worksheet you can see what you can downsize or just get rid of... you may find \$25 per check can be \$50!

I can sooo hear the “whatevers” or “but I can’t” from some of you right now! I can totally understand how daunting saving money may sound but a reminder—the reason for the FSS program is to increase your ability to maintain without depending on governmental assistance or just being in the same rut. Your FSS mission is to develop your resource knowledge, gain confidence and to be overall financially educated. It is time for change! You have it in you! Trust yourself. Now hold yourself accountable.

—Rachel

Example:

$\$25 \times 2 \text{ (bi weekly deposits)} = \$50 \times 12 \text{ months} = \600 per year

Tax Refund was \$3000 this year: Deposit 50% is \$1500

You will have \$ 2100 saved at the end of the year! If you save it for 5 years you will have \$10500!! Now...add that to your Family Savings Account (Escrow)!!

***Housing doesn't limit the amount you have in the bank, but they will count any income those generated from interest when determining your rent calculations.*

If you have any questions about how to start a savings account, budget or your safety net please call or let's discuss at your next appointment