

# Resident Services

## June 2025 Monthly Report

June was a highly productive and meaningful month, filled with robust programming, community support, and team-building initiatives across all program areas. From launching all 3 youth summer camps Chosen PODS (Edington Center), Positive Vision for Academics (PVA) and Youthful Hand (Maple Crest) and supporting our Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) participants and other residents with organizing rentals, hosting community wellness events, and improving internal collaboration, every effort contributed to our mission of empowering residents and building stronger, healthier communities.

The month of June was a testament to collaboration, compassion, and community-driven work. From youth camps to family services and from internal staff development to direct client support, our efforts reflected the spirit of empowerment that HACA stands for. As we move into July, our focus will be on continuing to build capacity, foster strong relationships, and create lasting impact for those we serve.

We are excited to announce that the Asheville Housing Authority (HACA) has been awarded additional expansion positions in this latest round of funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HACA, along with other eligible applicants, requested an increase in staffing for the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program, moving from three to four coordinators.

In this round, HUD awarded a total of 22 new positions across all applicants, with a total of \$2,359,294 in expansion funding. This funding will cover the positions for the calendar year 2025 (CY25). Importantly, these new expansion positions, along with the ones awarded in the FY24 funding cycle, will transition into renewal positions starting in the FY25 funding cycle.

This marks a significant step in increasing the capacity of the FSS program to better support our residents and help them achieve greater self-sufficiency. We are proud to be among the recipients of this valuable funding and are committed to using these resources to further strengthen our resident support services.

## Acknowledgements

We'd like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to:

- **Summer Camp Staff** for their creativity, commitment, and compassion.
- **Greensboro church volunteers** for bringing positive energy and supporting our youth programming.
- **Jewish Community Center (JCC)** for partnering on affordable swimming lessons for our campers.
- We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community partners who are helping to make this summer unforgettable for the youth at all of our sites. A special thank you to Read2Succeed, FUGE Camp, Marvelous Math Club, My Daddy Taught Me That (MDTMT), CWA,

Asheville Parks & Rec, AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina and the Grant Center for their unwavering support. Your contributions are instrumental in enriching our programs and providing our students with invaluable learning and growth opportunities this summer.

- **Southside Kitchen and facility staff** who helped make our first Employee Cookout a success, and for serving over 500 meals a day to the children participating in our summer camps at each site.
- **Morgan Miller and Andrew Boell**, our newest team members, for their consistent support and mentorship in FSS operations.
- **James Howard, CHW** for coordinating resources and organizes weekly trips to various stores, ensuring our residents have access to the essentials they need. Recently, CHW, Jr also organized a wonderful outing for our residents, where they were able to enjoy a movie together as a group. These efforts truly enhance the quality of life for our aging community members and we are grateful for their continued support.
- **Property Manager Renee Crain** for coordinating maintenance efforts and providing a donated bed frame to a resident in need.
- **Community Partners** including MANNA FoodBank, ABCCM, Chosen, Working Wheels and Eblen Charities.
- **The entire HACA team** for warmly supporting new staff during training and onboarding.

## Key Program Highlights

### PODS Summer Camps (Chosen PODS, Positive Vision for Academics, & Youthful Hand)

- We're excited to announce our robust summer programming at Asheville Housing Authority! Positive Vision for Academics has 34 students enrolled, while Youthful Hand boasts 46 participants, and Chosen PODS leads with 124 students. Each day kicks off with academic sessions supported by our partners Read to Succeed. In the afternoons, participants engage in a variety of enriching and fun activities, including gardening, swimming, movies, scavenger hunts, the trampoline park, etc. Additionally, our middle and high school students participate in leadership classes every Monday and Thursday, guided by our esteemed partner, My Daddy Taught Me That.
- Organized and filed all camper documentation, compiled class rosters and parent contacts.
- Created themed notebooks, attendance rosters, and classroom schedules aligned with lesson plans.
- Coordinated field trips, swimming lessons, and classroom enrichment activities.
- Held staff meetings to build team cohesion and communication.
- Mentored a high school student in marketing and flyer design.
- Facilitated conflict resolution between youth and supported staff with classroom needs.

## Facility Rentals – Edington Center

- 8 rentals for the month of June, two were community partner meetings.
- Managed bookings, payments, and logistics for multiple rental events.
- Maintained records and inventory of tables, chairs, and supplies.
- Supported recurring partner organizations with scheduling and communication.

## Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program

- 5 New FSS enrollments and 2 new escrow accounts in June.
- Provided assistance with recertification packets, rental resources, and employment applications.
- Connected residents with car repair resources (with goal accountability measures).
- Supported 1 resident in receiving tuition assistance and 2 with GED enrollment at AB Tech.
- Maintained check-ins with 45 clients, including 10 scheduled quarterly updates.

## Resident Support Services & Community Support

- Completed wellness checks and resource delivery for residents at Pisgah View and Deaverview.
- Delivered diapers, formula, and food to over 25 families across sites.
- Connected a family with Vaya Health to support a child with autism.
- Supported one client with an emergency transfer request (scheduled for mid-July).
- Moved water tanks from Klondyke, with maintenance support.
- Attended community planning meetings with Parks & Rec, My Daddy Taught Me That, SPARC, and other organizations.
- Coordinated FSS info sessions at both Deaverview and Pisgah View.
- Continued planning advocacy group for residents with disabilities.
- Assisted elderly residents with IRS communication and payment completion.
- Continued planning meetings for the multiple back-to-school events as well as four community cookouts.

## Employee Engagement & Training

- Helped coordinate HACA's first **Employee Cookout**, including park reservation, food service as well as other logistics.
- FSS Team continued **Life Coach training**. Estimated training completion date- 08/27/2025.
- Morgan Miller completed **online FSS Program Training**.

## Southside Kitchen

### Overview & Summer Progress Update

As of July 9, 2025, I am pleased to report that the South Side Kitchen has not only met expectations for summer food service—but has surpassed them. With increased pace and demand over the summer months, our team has demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and excellence in execution.

We now operate in seamless collaboration with our CWA auxiliary staff. The efficiency and consistency of our service have significantly improved, allowing us to expand the menu offerings while simultaneously reducing costs compared to this time last year.

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### **Infrastructure & Operational Enhancements**

This quarter, we have made meaningful investments in infrastructure and systems:

- **New Equipment:** Several key pieces of kitchen equipment were added or upgraded to improve output and safety.
  - **Digital Inventory:** We transitioned to an online inventory management system, streamlining ordering, tracking, and reporting.
  - **Cost Efficiency:** Through better vendor relationships and internal planning, we've achieved measurable savings on core ingredients and supplies.
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### **Community Engagement & Strategic Conversations**

We are actively building deeper relationships with the community and forging new opportunities for growth and sustainability. Conversations have taken place with:

- United Way of Asheville & Buncombe County
- LEAF Global Arts
- Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
- Hood Huggers International
- Umoja Health, Wellness, and Justice Collective

These discussions center around our capacity to cater breakfasts, luncheons, and dinners for various community-facing events in late 2025 and early 2026. Ensuring these contracts are secured and executed with excellence is my top priority.

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### **Vision: Workforce Development & Resident Empowerment**

With the immediate needs of youth and community summer meals met, we now shift focus to rebuilding trust in the South Side Kitchen as a culinary workforce incubator. The next phase of our work includes:

- **Job Training for Residents:**
  - On-the-job experience in kitchen management
  - Hands-on training in menu planning and food permitting processes
  - Structured roles to build leadership and reliability
- **Chef Intensives & Food Literacy:**

I will be reaching out to AIR (Asheville Independent Restaurant Association) to invite local chefs to lead culinary intensives focused on specific skills. Additional planned programming includes:

  - Food Literacy for Children
  - Marketing Basics for Aspiring Food Entrepreneurs
- **Financial Literacy Partnerships:**

We are initiating conversations with Mountain BizWorks to coordinate:

- Financial literacy workshops
- Personal and business budgeting support
- Long-term planning resources for residents interested in launching food-based ventures

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## Educational Innovation: STEM in the Kitchen

We are also integrating STEM concepts into our youth programming. In partnership with the PODS program, children recently engaged in a food science experiment—making homemade ice cream while learning about chemical reactions and the basics of kitchen chemistry.

This is just the beginning of a robust strategy to combine fun, food, and science into accessible education models for our youth.

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## Closing Reflections

Everyone at 133 Livingston Street has been incredibly supportive and responsive to the evolution of this program. I am deeply grateful for the energy, teamwork, and shared commitment shown by all.

We are building something powerful—one meal, one lesson, and one job at a time.

## ✓ Meeting/Exceeding Expectations

- Former Klondyke’s resident moved into a Habitat for Humanity home (06/06/2025).
- Positive feedback from new staff and successful onboarding process.
- Smooth launch and strong participation in all HACA Summer Camp.

## ⚠ Items of Moderate Concern

- HVAC at the Edington Center and Lonnie D Burton Building
- Multiple inquiries about **Section 8 / TMV application process reopening**—awaiting updates.
- Some FSS residents remain behind on rent—case managers are actively addressing.

## Upcoming Events & Key Dates

Date	Event
07/16/2025	Rec N’ Rolls – Klondyke (3:00 – 5:00 PM)
7/26/2025	Housing Mobility Workshop Edington Center
08/09/2025	Housing Mobility Workshop Maple Crest
08/09/2025	Back to School event at Walton Park (Time TBD)
08/13/2025	Rec N’ Rolls – Klondyke (Time TBD)
08/16/2025	Back to School event at the Edington Center (Time TBD)
Monthly	MANNA Food Distribution: 1st/3rd Mon @ DVA, 2nd/4th Wed @ PVA
Bi-monthly	AMCHC Mobile Unit @ PVA: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 9:00 A – 3:00 P

