



Entry Form 2017 Annual Awards for Program Excellence

Entry Deadline: Thursday, June 15, 2017, Midnight ET

Each entry must include a completed entry form. Please complete a form for each entry your HFA is submitting. The completed entry form will become the first page of your entry.

This form is a fillable PDF. Type your information into the entry form and save it as a PDF. Please do not write on or scan the entry form. **Questions: Call 202-624-7710 or email awards@ncsha.org.**

Entry Title: Enter your entry's title exactly as you wish it to be published on the NCSHA website and in the awards program.

Category:

Subcategory:

Entry Summary: A 15-word (max) summary of the program, project, or practice you are entering.

HFA:

HFA Staff Contact:

Phone:

Email:

Visual Aids:

Are you mailing to NCSHA 10 copies of any visual aids that cannot be included in your entry PDF? Yes No

Payment:

My HFA is mailing a check to NCSHA.
My HFA is emailing the credit card authorization form to awards@ncsha.org.



Starting in 2014 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) implemented reforms under the Moving to Work HUD designation to our subsidized housing programs, creating a time-limited and stepped-rent structured program for work-able households (for approximately 2,300 qualifying households in the state). We named this program Step. The objective of the Step Program is to provide stability to work-able families while they work toward independence from subsidized housing. To support this objective, AHFC expanded and improved its Family Self-Sufficiency Program by creating *Jumpstart* in 2015. Primarily targeting work-able households already enrolled in Step, *Jumpstart* was designed to prepare families to pay market rent while also increasing access to housing opportunities for other low-income Alaskans.

Jumpstart offers access to opportunities tailored specific to a family's goals, including rewards for completion of employment tenure, training, or education, and customized case management for the most vulnerable families. Participants work with mentors to develop an individualized plan to help overcome external barriers and to increase earned income.

AHFC defines a successful exit from the program as "any participant who graduates in five years or less and has a market rent shelter burden of less than 50 percent". As of today, *Jumpstart* has played a big role in helping the Step Program meet its programmatic goals:

- **Shelter burden:** Current shelter burden for Step Program households is 28 percent, a reduction since the program began. This is significant in that it shows household income is increasing at a faster rate than rent increases. With these household income increases, families are close to reaching the goal of successfully exiting the program paying less than 50 percent of income to rent.
- **Income:** Step participants from the first wave of implementation have realized significant gains in earned income since program inception. Annual earned income for this group is now more than \$19,000 and represents a \$7,000 increase (58 percent increase) from the baseline year.
- **Employment:** A total of 13 percent more Step households are working at least part-time compared to the baseline year, and 7 percent more are working full-time.
- **Agency financial:** Step has resulted in a net agency savings of approximately \$700,000 since implementation. The benefits of the *Jumpstart* Program have outweighed the "costs", proven by the savings alone.
- **Increased housing opportunities:** AHFC has been able to use agency savings for an increased number of housing vouchers; therefore serving more Alaskans statewide. These direct savings translate roughly to offering 100 additional vouchers, although through these efforts and other efficiency measures AHFC has increased the total families served from 5,200 in 2014 to over 6,000 today.
- **Motivation:** A majority of Step survey participants indicated Step motivated them to set goals (85 percent), create a budget (67 percent), and engage in a job search (62 percent).

jumpstart

Deonna Wells

Chef at Table 6 Restaurant

*Thanks to AHFC programs,
I was able to set goals, go back
to school and save money for
a new transmission for my car.
The incentives program was
really valuable in rewarding
me for my hard work.*



Jumpstart is a program from the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation designed to help families become financially independent.

jumpstart

Eligible participants can receive up to \$3,000 in financial incentives to support their goals.

Work Rewards: For adult family members who are working less than 30 hours a week upon enrollment

- *Initial Employment: \$250 for employment averaging at least 30 hours a week for three consecutive months*
- *Sustained Employment: \$250 for employment averaging at least 30 hours a week for nine months in a one-year period*

Educational Incentives & Rewards: For courses or training programs that support employment opportunities or career advancement

- *Tuition Assistance: Up to \$1,000*
- *Educational Rewards: Up to \$500 upon course or training completion*
 - *GED: \$500*
 - *College Courses/Vocation Training: \$100 per credit*

Savings Match: *In order to help you prepare for the end of your assistance, AHFC will match your savings up to \$300 per year for a maximum savings match up to \$1,500*

To get started, call us today at **1-877-AKGOALS** or email **FSS@ahfc.us**.

Learn more about Jumpstart at **www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart**.



Khyisha Taylor

Age 30, mother of two

Khyisha not only met her original goals but she also achieved new ones she set along the way: she was promoted at work, paid down her debt, raised her credit score and purchased a new car.



Welcome to Jumpstart,
a new program from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation designed
to help families become financially independent.



jumpstart

Jumpstart is here to help you set your family's goals and achieve financial independence.

- Educational opportunities to increase employment skills
- Support services to help overcome life challenges
- Financial incentives up to \$3,000 to support you

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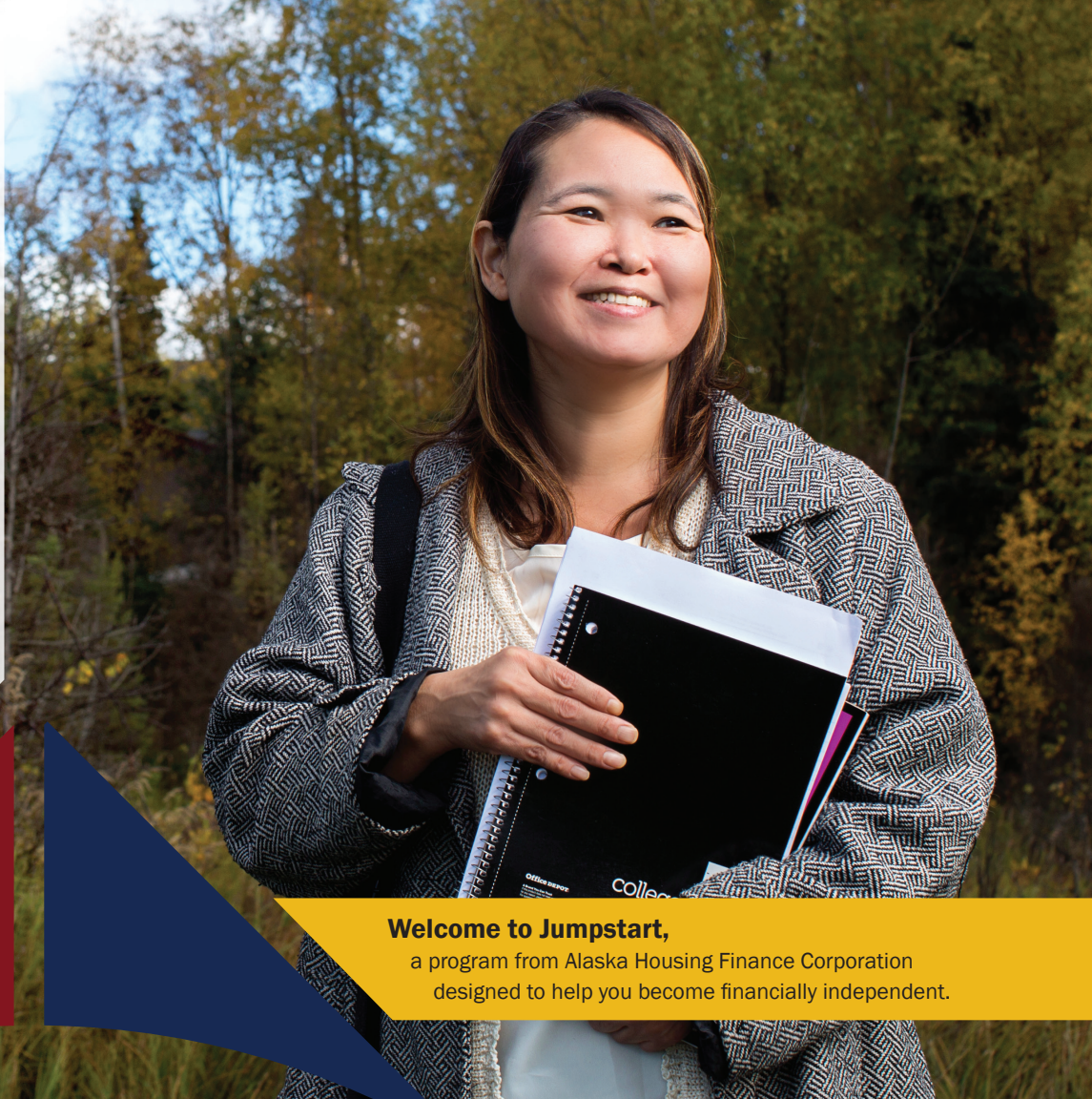
PO Box 101020
Anchorage, AK 99510-1020



Dorothy Walunga

Student

“AHFC programs have helped me and my family in so many ways. When I wanted to go back to school, AHFC offered me GED tuition and completion assistance. I’m very happy to say that with AHFC’s support, I was able to achieve my educational and savings goals.”



Welcome to Jumpstart,

a program from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
designed to help you become financially independent.

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Next Appointment:

Date: _____ Time: _____

Welcome to Jumpstart, a program from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation designed to help you become financially independent.

Through the Jumpstart program, you will work with a mentor to develop an individualized plan that will help you overcome barriers to self-sufficiency and increase your earned income. As you progress toward achieving career, educational and savings goals, AHFC can provide up to \$3,000 in incentives to support you.



For more information about Jumpstart, please contact your assigned AHFC family self-sufficiency mentor, call **1-877-AKGOALS** or email **FSS@ahfc.us**. You can also learn more about Jumpstart online at **www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart**.

Welcome to
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ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

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P.O. Box 101020
Anchorage, AK 99510-1020

Jumpstart is here to help you.

Through the Jumpstart program, you will work with a mentor to develop your own plan that will help you overcome barriers to self-sufficiency and increase your earned income. Program benefits include:

- **Assistance** in developing an individualized plan to achieve short and long-term financial goals
- **Educational opportunities** to enhance career advancement
- **Work and educational incentives** up to \$3,000

Families who are identified as most at risk of not being able to pay their rent will receive additional supportive services.

At your next annual examination, your case manager will enroll you in Jumpstart. If you'd like to get started sooner or have any questions, please call us at **1-877-AKGOALS** or email **FSS@ahfc.us**.

Learn more about Jumpstart at **www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart**.

440 E Benson Blvd. Ste. 100 Anchorage, AK 99503 | (907) 330-6180

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P.O. Box 101020
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Learn more about Jumpstart at **www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart**.

3410 Foster Ave. Juneau, AK 99801 | (907) 586-2937

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Learn more about Jumpstart at **www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart**.

1441 22nd Ave. Fairbanks, AK 99701 | (907) 456-3738

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**We know life
gets busy...**



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...but we are still here to support you!

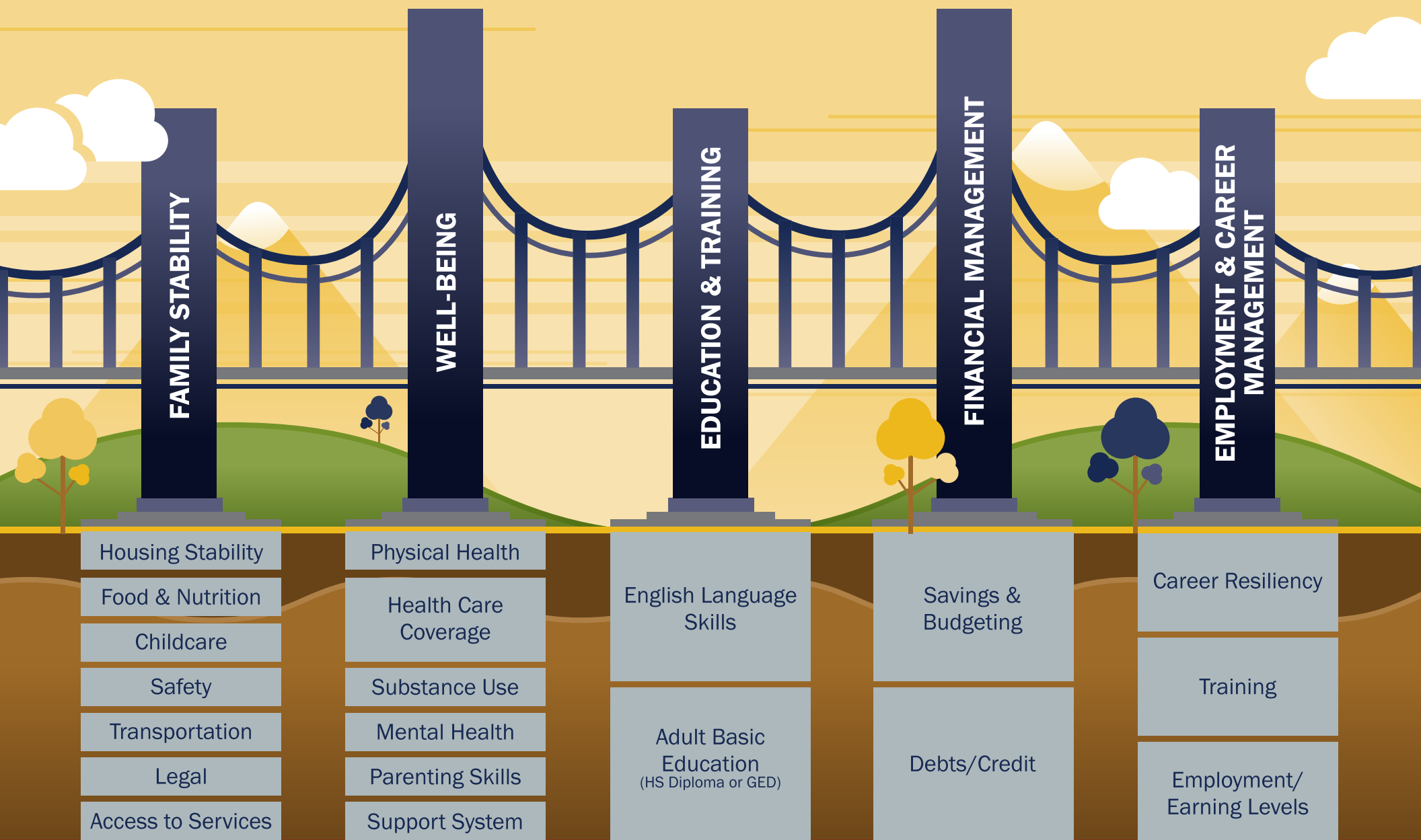


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The 5 Pillars of Independence

jump^{start}



Families must focus on all the **Pillars of Independence** to make a successful transition out of subsidized housing.

Finance Management
budget & savings/debt & credit



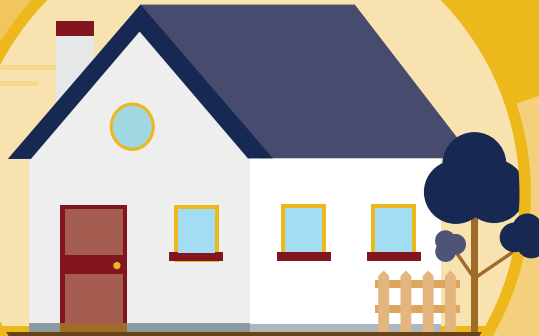
Well-Being
health & behavioral health/social networks



Employment
fulfilling career & opportunities for growth



Independence

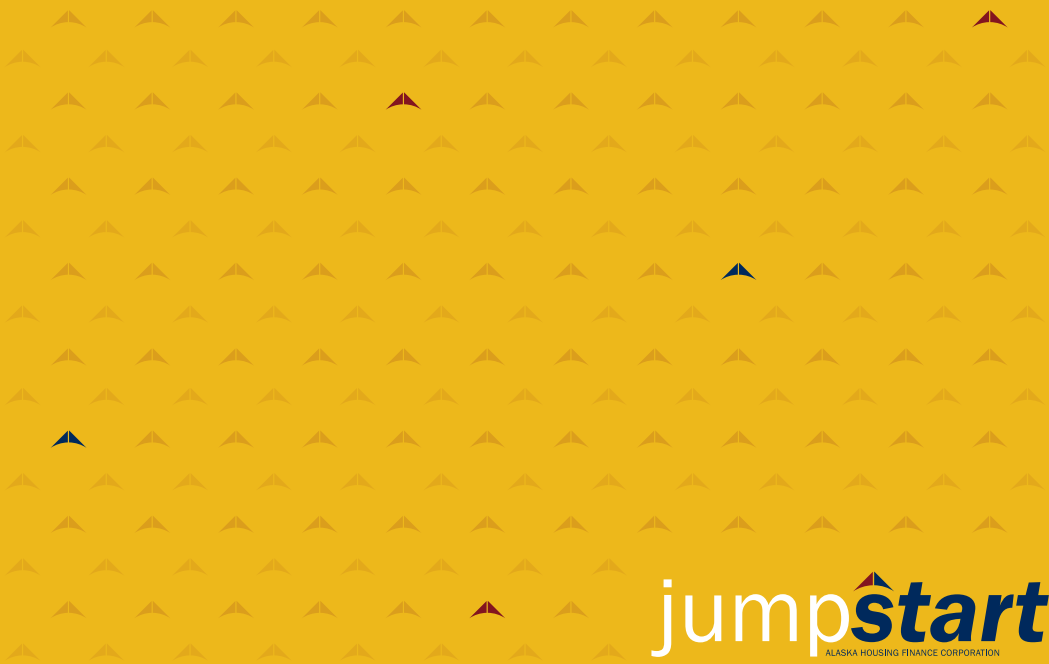


Education & Trainings
further education/certificates



Family Stability
housing/dependents





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