



## Entry Form 2018 Annual Awards for Program Excellence

**Entry Deadline: Friday, June 15, 2018, 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](mailto: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.

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**Category:**

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**Subcategory:**

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

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**HFA:**

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**HFA Staff Contact:**

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**Phone:**

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**Email:**

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**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](mailto:awards@ncsha.org).

## **Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Providing a *Jumpstart* to Independence**

Alaska's high cost of living contributes to expensive housing in the majority of communities around the state. Far too often families and individuals are on the brink of homelessness, one life event away from finding themselves without a job, without a home or without the ability to meet basic needs. Too many have to choose between paying their home heating bill and putting food on the table.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation created *Jumpstart*, an original program that provides long-term case management and offers goal-related financial incentives to low-income families living in federally subsidized housing.

The objective of *Jumpstart* is to help families identify and meet short- and long-term financial and employment goals, allowing them to become financially self-sufficient and able to graduate from their subsidized housing program after five years.

This program is tailored to the needs of each family, and with resources that are relevant to where they live in the state. An AHFC case manager adds family accountability, and partnerships with other state agencies remove redundancy or duplication of efforts.

Through *Jumpstart*, AHFC is providing Alaskans with housing assistance and also helping at-risk families make lifechanging choices that impact lives far beyond the life of the five-year program.

AHFC identified *Jumpstart* as the best approach to meeting the unique needs of financially struggling families while also responding to the thousands of others Alaskans in need of subsidized housing.

### **Creating *Jumpstart***

In 2014 AHFC restructured its housing programs thanks to the flexibility offered as a HUD designated Moving to Work agency. Among the changes was creating a time-limited and stepped-rent structured program for work-able households (approximately 2,300 qualifying households supported by AHFC). AHFC called this program *Step*.

The objective of *Step* is to provide work-able families a predictable rent structure with stability over their next five years. Participating families would work toward economic self-sufficiency.

To support these objectives, AHFC created *Jumpstart*, an expansion of the Family Self-Sufficiency program to support the most vulnerable and at-risk families based on their ability to meet their monthly rent obligations.

This approach is the result of AHFC identifying the needs of the populations it serves and responding proactively with a creative, innovative and effective program to meet the long-term needs of these Alaskan families with low-incomes.

### **Compliance Monitoring**

Families in *Jumpstart* are referred to a case manager who will support them as they work to achieve financial stability and independence. During the intake process, pictographs, introductory videos and workbooks are used by case managers to explain the program and expectations, and to clearly communicate how progress will be tracked. This reflects AHFC's commitment to acknowledging that each family is unique and their challenges across the state may differ.

Participating families are offered access to a range of short- and long-term financial and work incentives and educational opportunities tailored specific to a family's goals and resources available in their community. Financial incentives have been designed to support and encourage each participant's investment in his/her own immediate employment and human development for their longer-term economic well-being.

### **Defining success in *Jumpstart***

AHFC defines a participant's 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." *Jumpstart* is critical to supporting the Step Program. As of today:

- **Enrollment:** *Jumpstart* has 574 enrolled families.
- **Shelter burden:** Current shelter burden for participating households is 29.3 percent.
- **Employment:** Employment among participating families has increased each year. Fifty percent more Step households are working at least part-time compared to the baseline year, and 17 percent more are working full-time.
- **Income:** Early Step participants have experienced significant gains in annual earned income. Average annual earned income for this group is now more than \$20,000 and represents an \$11,000 increase (132 percent) from the baseline year.
- **Increased housing opportunities:** AHFC has used agency savings to support more vulnerable Alaskans in need of housing subsidy. As an outcome of savings cost savings assistance is available to serve 353 additional families.

Since Step was implemented in 2014, AHFC has increased the total families it serves by 19 percent, serving over 6,000 today.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
Special Achievement  
Entry: *Jumpstart*

The *Jumpstart* program is proving to be an effective model that can be replicated and tailored to meet the specific needs of low-income families.

Jumpstart is coordinated in partnership with landlords, employers, state and federal partners. Evidence above along with anecdotal comments support AHFC's efforts, demonstrating effective partnerships.

The Jumpstart process is replicable by other state and local agencies. Activities and communications are designed to show AHFC as a partner in individual family successes. Public housing staff often hear participating family's accept responsibility for their role in moving toward greater financial independence and they say they appreciate AHFC's high-touch effort with individual planning. In this case, how participants feel matters. AHFC's works diligently to empower families and encourages them to celebrate their victories, no matter how large or small. Imagery strongly reflects the Alaska landscape, and participants are prominently featured in all program collateral, reinforcing for participants that they are not alone in this.

AHFC's Jumpstart program increases family access to innovative economic resources and advancement, and supports to the Corporation's mission of "providing Alaskans access to safe, quality, affordable housing".

# jumpstart

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## **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](http://www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart)**.

**jumpstart**  
ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

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



**jumpstart**

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



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

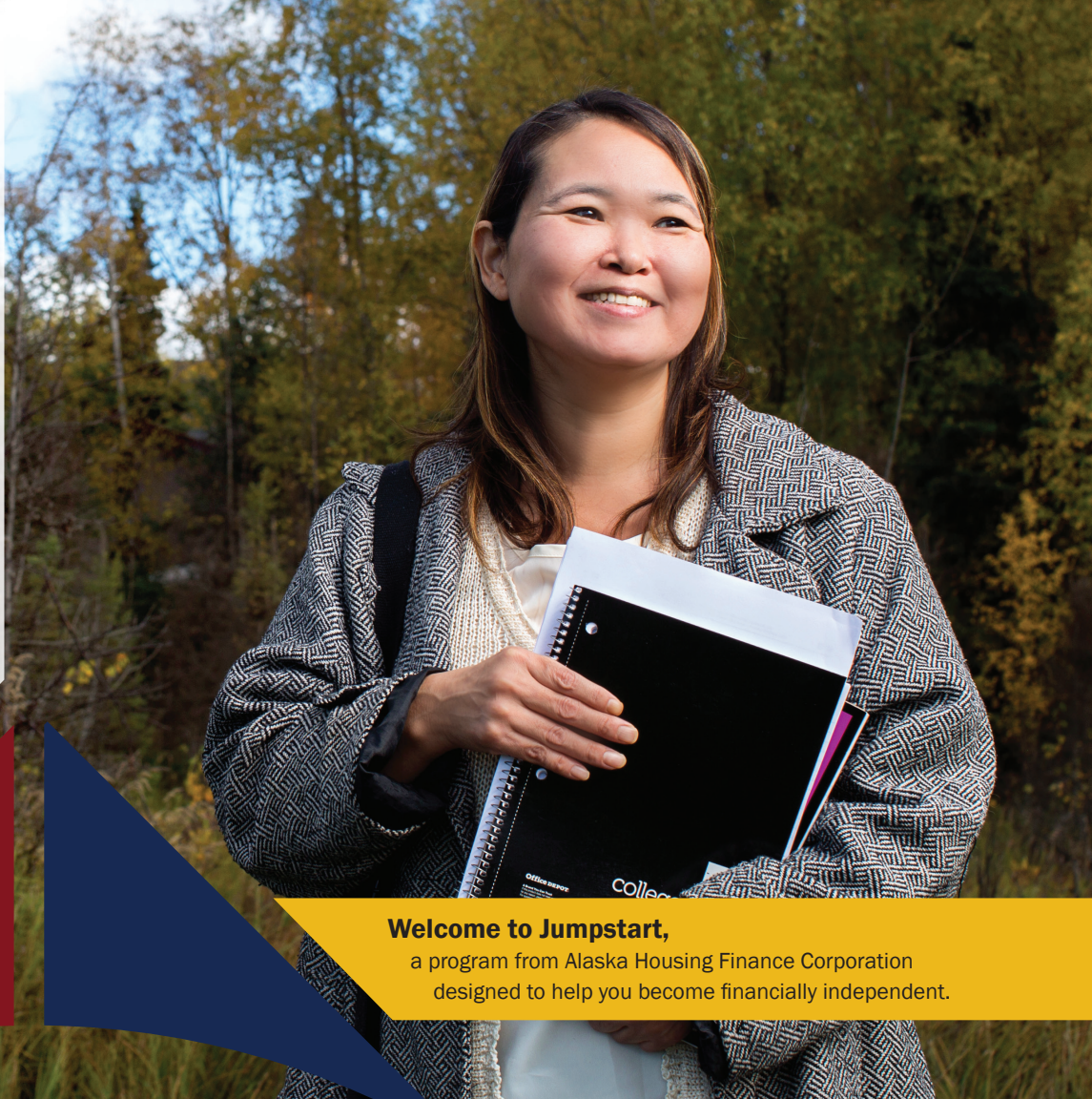
1-877-AKGOALS | FSS@ahfc.us | [www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart](http://www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart)



## 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.

# jumpstart



**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](http://www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart)**.

Welcome to  
**jumpstart**  
ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

# jumpstart



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.

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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](http://www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart)**.

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

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Learn more about Jumpstart at **[www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart](http://www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart)**.

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

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Anchorage, AK 99510-1020

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



## 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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Learn more about Jumpstart at [www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart](http://www.ahfc.us/Jumpstart).

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**Finance Management**  
budget & savings/debt & credit



**Well-Being**  
health & behavioral health/social networks



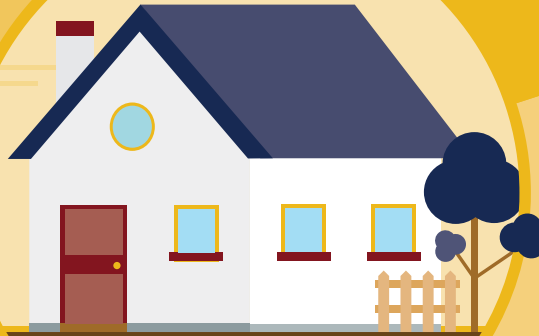
**Employment**  
fulfilling career & opportunities for growth



**Education & Trainings**  
further education/certificates



**Independence**



**Family Stability**  
housing/dependents

# The 5 Pillars of Independence

jump<sup>start</sup>



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