

**HOPE VI Community & Supportive Services
Best Practices – Adult Basic Education/Job Training/Readiness
Kingsport Housing Authority**

Residents Receive Necessary Training to Achieve Success

A needs assessment of Kingsport Housing Authority (KHA) residents identified the need for assistance with job training, job searching, and job retention. The survey also revealed that residents who were employed lacked necessary skills to retain their employment long-term and some residents who were unemployed lacked skills to secure employment. KHA realized this barrier needed to be addressed if families were going to be successful and obtain long-term self-sufficiency.

In partnership with the Alliance for Business & Training, CSS staff created a twelve week training program comprised of several components. A morning program entitled "Building Tomorrows" covers a variety of soft skills, including résumé writing and interviewing. The afternoon session is divided into three training tracks; Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training (PACT), WorkKeys and Career Readiness Certification or GED preparation and training.

All 17 participants completed the program and achieved a variety of goals. WorkKeys track participants received Career Readiness Certificates, including two Gold Career Readiness Certificates. PACT track participants completed and received their PACT certification and GED preparation track participants made significant gains during their nine weeks. Two participants transitioned to college in January.

The Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority received an FY 2006 \$11,900,000 million HOPE VI Revitalization grant for Riverview.

For more information on this Best Practice contact:

Maria Catron - mariacatron@kingsporthousing.org - 423-392-2590