

# HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER NEWS

## Staff Updates

Orange County Housing Authority (OCHA) has several new staff members, meet our team:

**Alexus Battle, HCV Technician**, is the newest team member, joining OCHA in September 2022. She will be taking over HCV re-certifications, as well as handling port-in payments and landlord issues. Alexis enjoys spending time with her nieces and nephews, "the ones that make her world go 'round."

919-895-2689, [abattle@orangecountync.gov](mailto:abattle@orangecountync.gov)



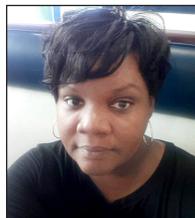
**Blake Rosser, HCV Program Manager**, joined OCHA in October 2020. He supervises HCV program administration including developing program policies and completing required reports. He loves reading, music, baseball, and spending time with his family.

919-245-4329, [brosser@orangecountync.gov](mailto:brosser@orangecountync.gov)



**Alycia Brown, Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Coordinator** has been with OCHA since 2019. She oversees the day-to-day processing for HCV applicants and participants. Alycia's favorite place to be is on a warm and sunny beach.

919-245-2143, [albrown@orangecountync.gov](mailto:albrown@orangecountync.gov)



**Corey Root, OCHA Executive Director**, became Housing Director in 2021. She serves as Executive Director of OCHA and oversees other Orange County Housing Department functions for community stability, affordable housing development, and homeless services. She enjoys needlepoint, movies, and spending time with her family.

919-245-2492, [croot@orangecountync.gov](mailto:croot@orangecountync.gov)



**Lindy Grainger, HCV Specialist**, joined OCHA in March 2022 after many years of case management work in Durham. She handles all new intake and applications, in addition to briefings and initial move-ins. Lindy's favorite color is yellow, and she enjoys baking tiny things.

919-245-2493, [lgrainger@orangecountync.gov](mailto:lgrainger@orangecountync.gov)



**Tim Stone, HCV Inspector**, is a long time Orange County employee who has been with OCHA since 2020. He visits each HCV home to check on health and safety standards. Tim enjoys reading, fishing, attending his children's sport games and being with his family.

919-245-2495, [tstone@orangecountync.gov](mailto:tstone@orangecountync.gov)



## Hours of Availability

We are currently available for in-person visits every day in our Hillsborough office (300 W. Tryon St.) from 8am-5pm, as well as Monday and Wednesday in our Chapel Hill office (2501 Homestead Rd.). We encourage clients to call or email us beforehand if they will be coming in, so that we can prepare anything needed and make your visit quicker.

919-245-2490, [hcv@orangecountync.gov](mailto:hcv@orangecountync.gov)



Orange County Housing Department  
3rd Floor, Whitted Human Services Center  
300 W. Tryon St., Hillsborough, NC  
919-245-2490



Orange County Housing Department  
Southern Human Services Center  
2501 Homestead Rd., Chapel Hill, NC  
919-245-2490



## Homeownership Program

OCHA's Home Ownership Voucher (HOV) program is accepting applications.

### Program eligibility:

- Current HCV recipient
- Complete Homebuyer Readiness Course (list of options on the attached info sheet)
- Have \$2,000 in savings
- Have a full-time job
- Earn at least \$14,500 annually.

For more info and to apply, contact Blake Rosser (919-245-4329, [brosser@orangecountync.gov](mailto:brosser@orangecountync.gov))

## Board Applications

The Orange County Housing Authority Board is currently recruiting HCV program participants to join the board! This group provides leadership and oversight to the HCV program, setting the mission, providing strategic direction, ensuring financial solvency, voicing concerns, and ensuring compliance.



To apply, please visit [www.orangecountync.gov/BoardsandCommissions](http://www.orangecountync.gov/BoardsandCommissions), or contact HCV staff at 919-245-2490 to request a paper application (see attached flyer).

## Do You Have Any Changes To Report?

Please report any changes for your rent determination:

- Change in family, work or income status.
- New phone number
- New email address

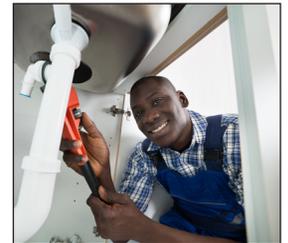


To expedite a loss of employment incomes go to: [www.orangecountync.gov/housing/participant\\_information](http://www.orangecountync.gov/housing/participant_information) and complete step 1 and 2 as instructed.

## Common Questions

### Repair Requests:

- For emergency issues (for example a lack of heat/AC/water/hot water, or a hole in roof), please contact both your landlord and OCHA staff at the same time – we will coordinate an immediate solution
- For non-emergency issues (for example suspected mold, a leaky pipe, broken appliances, etc.): contact your landlord (before contacting OCHA) and allow them a reasonable time to respond. If they have not responded after 1-2 weeks and multiple requests, please then contact OCHA staff



### Re-certifications:

- HUD requires HCV participants to recertify their income and household composition every year. Please be in touch with OCHA staff, or respond to our calls/emails/letters, even if there are issues.

### Moves:

- When moving to another apartment, you must turn in your keys to the old unit BEFORE you sign the lease in the new unit. HUD does not allow housing authorities to pay subsidy on two different units for the same participant, even a few days.



Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8181, Hillsborough, NC 27278

Hillsborough Office: 300 W. Tryon St., Hillsborough, NC 27278

Chapel Hill Office: 2501 Homestead Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Phone: 919-245-2490 Fax: 919-944-8496

# Are you concerned about Affordable Housing in Orange County?

Do you have thoughts on Orange County's Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Program? Consider joining the **Orange County Housing Authority Board!**

This board advises the Orange County Housing Authority on HCV program policies, and works to create and maintain an effective, equitable and respectful federal housing program for all eligible OC residents.



Learn more about volunteer advisory boards and how to apply here:  
**[www.orangecountync.gov/BoardsandCommissions](http://www.orangecountync.gov/BoardsandCommissions)**



For more information,  
**[www.orangecountync.gov/OCHAB](http://www.orangecountync.gov/OCHAB)**



# Get free tax help and keep more of your money!

You probably qualify for **free tax preparation** from IRS-certified preparers. To get the **best value** this tax season:

- **Find a site near you:**

- [Go to IRS.gov and search for 'Free Tax Return Preparation'](#) OR
- [Go to AARP.org and search for 'Tax-Aide Locator'](#)

OR

- **File online with help:**

- [Go to GetYourRefund.org](#) for online tax preparation by IRS-certified preparers OR
- [Go to MyFreeTaxes.com](#) to prepare your own tax return with assistance from IRS-certified preparers

These IRS-certified options are not only free, but also accurate and convenient. How much of your refund is going into *your* pocket this year?



[consumerfinance.gov/free-filing-flyer](https://consumerfinance.gov/free-filing-flyer)