



ROSS Training Center  
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*Building Communities • Empowering Families • Transforming Lives*

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### **ROSS Life Skills Self-Sufficiency Grant**

Thanks for expressing interest in the ROSS Life Skills program! You are making an excellent choice to take control of your finances! Life Skills is designed for the working resident. If you are not currently working we strongly recommend that you complete a Job Skills/Job Training Module before enrolling in Life Skills. Once you are working, Life Skills will take you to the next level of responsibility and self-sufficiency by:

1. Helping you to identify life goals and create smaller benchmarks toward that goal.
2. Helping you to create a budget and save toward your stated goal. (Please bring your bills with you!)
3. Helping you to open a checking and savings account to manage your money more efficiently.
4. Discussing credit, credit offers, and debt traps to avoid while providing practical steps to improve your credit score. (Blended credit report with credit score along with one on one counseling provided)
5. Giving you a forum to discuss legal issues and to take responsibility for your community by registering to vote.

Grant funds are available for 6 months after taking the Life Skills class. The maximum amount per resident is \$150. To qualify for grant funds you must:

- Be a public housing resident in good standing with SHA.
- Successfully complete the Life Skills class within the last 6 months and have a budget on file with the ROSS Office. (You will create one in the class.)
- If you are not currently working full-time the goal that you identify must be one that will clearly and directly assist you in becoming gainfully employed (not self-employed).
- Complete the Life Skills Grant Application that is available in the ROSS Portable. On your application, you should clearly define your goal and the initial steps that you've made toward it. (For instance, you have already enrolled in cosmetology school now you need a 'kit' to work with at school.)
- Attach documentation of the cost of your goal. You will only receive funds equal to the amount of your need. For instance if you need \$100 for an exam you will only receive the \$100 not the maximum \$150.

The grant is not:

- Payment for attending the class
- Immediate - Checks take 3-4 weeks for processing.
- To be used for paying regular monthly bills
- Emergency assistance – see your case manager for emergency assistance
- An entitlement – you must follow the procedures to receive it.

After submitted to the ROSS Staff, grant applications will be reviewed by the ROSS Resident Advisory Board at the next regular monthly meeting. The ROSS RAB will respond to your application in writing. If your request is approved, checks will be cut and mailed to the vendor on your behalf.

Good Luck with your goals! We are committed to helping you reach them!

*Karen M. Curry,*  
ROSS Director

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