Metropolitan Educational Solutions, LLC

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NEWSLETTER

MES continues to work diligently towards the mission to lead and create helpful community support networks for vulnerable children, families and individuals. Our case managers work hard to reduce the barriers to housing and to house our participants appropriately. Serving the Greater Washington Area we rely on community partners to help us serve clients towards the path of improving their situations. We thank and recognize all who are in the fight with us to end homelessness in DC.

HOW TO MAKE THE BEST OF YOUR SPACE

We all want a place to look and feel like our own but sometimes it's hard to figure out what that means. Here is a quick tip on how to make the best of your space.

Keep it tidy. We may not have all the furniture we like but a tidy place can help our mood and help us to feel good about our space. A clean home can mean different things to different people but one thing for sure, it means is everything looks neat; garbage in the garbage bins, dishes in the kitchen washed and put away. Have a spot for your cups, plates, bowls, forks, spoons, knives and other utensils and dishes. Everything should have a place of its own in your home. Work on your place in sections and place items away one by one until everything has a place. When you use them, try to put them back in their place as soon as possible. Schedule time to clean up and stick to it. If your having trouble, ask for support.

MES Events

MES aims to have informative workshops and events that assist participants in gaining the tools to become self sufficient.

Upcoming Events

June 9th- virtual Employment Workshop
July 15th - Renter's Rights Virtual Workshop
August 17th- Back to School Event
June 29th - Employment Assistance Drop In

Please ask your case managers for more information regarding these events

Employment Services

As a part of the MES Rapid Re-Housing program, we offer employment assistance. The Employment Service Program was developed to reduce the barriers to employment and assist participants to gain self-sufficiency. The Employment Specialist will meet with clients one- on- one to assist with:

·identifying a job goal
·resume review and development
·interview skills and mock interviews
·job search strategies
·gaining access to training and education for a job goal

The Employment Specialist will assess your barriers and develop of an action plan with the goal to help you gain meaningful employment.

Our program will also be providing workshops and drop- in days to help you on your path to employment.

By Jalila Muhammad

Budgeting

Don't wait until the new year to start something new. Today is the day to create your plan to pay all your bills on time each month. The following are helpful steps:

1. Get your paper, pen, or cell phone and write in the notes section
2. Make a a list of every bill: It's almost impossible to pay all your bills on time if you don't know who you owe. Your list should include:

- rental payments
- electricity/gas
- water
- telephone
- eating out
- laundry
- cleaning supplies
- credit cards, etc.
- other expenses

3. Once you've created your list, separate it into two categories: Those you can pay automatically and those you must get a money order to mail.

4. Figure out which day you need to pay your bill by: If your due dates are all over the place, you may want to tweak them to make tracking payments easier. Paying your bills the same day each month could make your life much easier. It is helpful to pay your bills the day after being paid or when money comes in so you won't have to worry about overspending and not having enough money left to pay them later.

5. Finally: Use a spreadsheet, it can be delivered to you by your case manager!

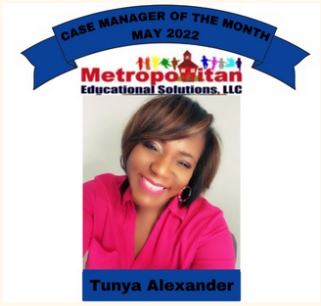
By Case Manager, Charlene Crafton

Landlord Appreciation

We would like to thank all the landlords who work with us to lease up our clients but there are 2 landlords; Victoria Derosa from Petra Management and Joyce Obirapu of Bailey Reholdings, who have been fantastic. They have graciously accepted our clients without preconditions, and being understanding of our participants housing barriers. They have been going above and beyond their leasing requirements just to accommodate our clients.

By Housing Navigator, Jacques Mambo

Case Manager Highlight



We recognize and thank case managers; Linda Shaw, Precious Forson, Andrea Wilkinson and Tunya Alexander for their dedication and hard work in assisting their clients being exemplary in their outstanding service. Kudos and congratulations. Keep up the good work!

A Story of Persistence

This client showed persistence, patience and resilience in her process to find housing.

After facing numerous trials that placed her in a precarious position, this client was in a tough space being a homeless single mother. She recently lost her younger sister and was experiencing mental and emotional challenges. She was living in a 2-bedroom apartment with mold and rodents that came back no matter what she did. Advocating for the client that this was no place for a mother to raise 2 children. Especially with one who suffers from asthma and re-occurring respiratory infections.

After months of waiting, she received an emergency voucher. We worked together on a search to find more suitable housing. She tirelessly searched for housing, sometimes visiting 5 units in one day while her children were at school and on the weekends with children on foot. Many landlords gave her the runaround, and some even told her she couldn't qualify because of her voucher, but she was not discouraged, she had a goal and she persisted. She assessed her options and connected with a leasing agent and shortly after, her wait had ended. She had secured housing for her and her children.

Despite health, mental health challenges and other barriers, this client finally received the keys to her apartment on May 5, 2022. Her diligence and persistence along with support from her case manager enabled her and her children to make it through incredibly tough time.

By Case Manager, Anisha Rao

Directors Corner

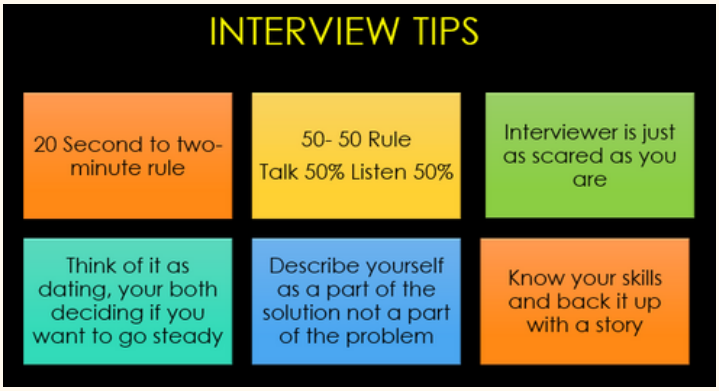
Director's Corner:

It is going to be a beautiful summer in DC. We look forward to seeing you in-person again and resuming our workshops and events. We know it will take some time to get back to "normal", but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and it feels great to get back to our regular schedules.

We are planning some great events for the rest of the year and we look forward to seeing you there. Congratulations to our graduates, to those who started a new job or learned a new trade, and to the families that grew by 1 or even 2! We are so proud of all that you accomplished during this difficult and uncertain year.

Please enjoy all that our team has put together in this newsletter and all that is still to come from MES this year. Thank you for continuing to be a part of our family and trusting us with your services.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Strianse, MES Program Director



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