



Monday, May 19, 2008

Housing opportunity program offered by county

By Robert Rogers

SAN BERNARDINO - When a homeownership opportunity came knocking on Olivia Castro's door, she answered with open arms.

The opportunity was made possible by the county Housing Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency and Home Ownership Preparation Education programs, according to the Housing Authority. The self-sufficiency program is a five-year commitment that offers financial incentives through the establishment of a savings account and a debt-free credit status.

Participants in this program are required to take classes for three to four hours a week. The Housing Authority requires that all participants obtain at least their high-school

diploma or GED and expects them to pursue some form of post-secondary education that will help them to establish a long-term career.

The program also requires that participants be employed full-time at the completion of the contract and welfare free for at least one year prior to the expiration of the contract. Completion of the FSS program allows participants to enter the HOPE program where they learn about money management, credit repair and home maintenance.

For information on the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, visit www.hacsb.com.