

Our Mission

Our mission is to empower individuals and families to self-sufficiency by providing resources and services to improve their quality of life.

Our Vision

We envision a thriving St. James Parish community, in which economic and social gains prevail and all people reach their full potential and live productive, healthy lives.

Values

- We believe that all people should be treated with dignity and respect.
- We believe in the power and strengths of individuals, families and organizations to build our community.
- We believe that all our employees are the cornerstone of our success.
- We believe in strong partnerships and collaborations.
- We believe in providing quality services, programs and advocacy for the St. James Parish community.



Helping People. Changing Lives.



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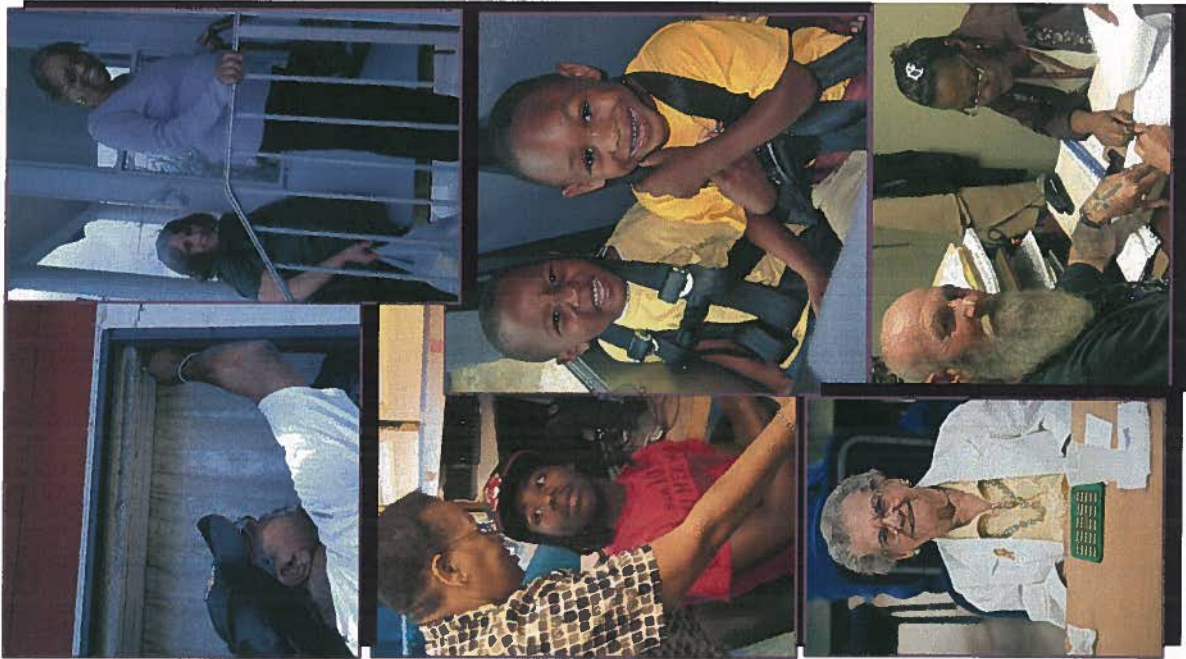
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St. James Parish is an equal opportunity employer/program. All facilities are accessible to the disabled and reasonable accommodations will be made for any disabled individual in order to take advantage of the services.



St. James Parish
Government

and Council on Aging



St. James Parish Government Department of Human Resources

DHR has been a touchstone for vulnerable families in the community since its creation in the early sixties. Department of Human Resources staff is dedicated to the mission of "empowering individuals and families to self-sufficiency by providing resources and services to improve their quality of life."

Elderly Services

A program funded by federal, state, and local funds to service the needs of the elderly in the community. Some of the services that we currently offer are Congregate and Home Delivered Meals, Information and Assistance, Outreach, Recreation, Wellness, Discounted Medical Alert Service, Nutrition, Respite Vouchers, Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshops, Medication Management Workshops, and Public Education. The Senior Community Service Employment Program offers subsidized employment opportunities to seniors. Senior centers are located in Lusher, Vacherie, Welcome, and Romeville.



Transportation

General Public transportation is available from Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Route deviation is scheduled by calling for curbside pick-up. Fares for one-way trips are \$1 for adults, \$0.50 for seniors or children ages 5-12, and free for children under 5. Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) services are available to provide transportation to and from work free of charge; offering extended hours and routes into neighboring parishes. New Freedom offers transportation for medical appointments, jobs, and school to Thibodaux and Gonzales.



Head Start

This is a family oriented program to prepare families of preschool children for their entry into the public school system. It allows children to become accustomed to classroom surroundings and teaches them socialization skills. It is available to children ages 3 – 3 1/2 years of age. Children and families also receive social services, medical screenings, and other assistance needed to ensure a healthy and safe home conducive to learning. Staff is especially equipped to provide services to children with disabilities.

Housing

One-on-one and group housing counseling services are available for residents of St. James Parish who are interested in becoming homeowners or avoiding foreclosure or eviction. A weatherization program is available to help families lower energy bills. An Emergency Shelter Grant allows residents the use of a furnished rental home as a temporary shelter in times of need. The Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA) assists low-income residents with subsidized rent for one year. The Minor Roof Repair programs provides assistance with residents whose homes suffered minor damage from past disasters. The Housing Preservation Program provides minor home repairs for qualified residents. Assistance is also available for victims of Hurricane Isaac.

Youth Services

YouthBuild is a comprehensive youth and community development program. Unemployed and undereducated youth ages 18-24 work towards their GED or high school diploma while learning construction skills by repairing affordable housing for low-income families. Other youth services include the United Way Youth Experience, a tuition assistance program with a designated case manager to ensure that students receive support to remain enrolled in post-secondary education. Supportive services include assistance with Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) cards and OSHA certification.



Mobile Computer Lab

The "Computer Van Gough", a mobile unit that houses a computer lab, travels to various locations in the parish, offering residents Basic Computer Skills Training and GED preparation.

Special Programs

Special Programs acts as a one-stop shop for families in distress by administering a wide range of federal, state, and local emergency assistance programs. Programs are available to assist with Emergency Food and Shelter, utility assistance, rent/mortgage assistance, disaster assistance, quarterly commodities, and more. Homemaker services provide home care services such as cleaning, shopping, etc., to low-income and elderly who are homebound due to illness or disability. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program provides free tax preparation for families to make the most of their Earned Income Tax Credit.



Community Partner



"One Department,
Many Services"