



Spotlight on the Corridor



CLEVELAND

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Alicia Ross

The Opportunity for Growth

A Ward 5 resident of Outhwaite Homes Estates for the past four years, Alicia Ross understands all too well the challenges that exist with living in public housing projects. As a proud mother and grandmother she knew she had to devise a plan to further her career and ultimately improve her current living arrangements. Ms. Ross knew it would be difficult, but necessary, to provide a better life for her family.

After evaluating her current situation, she determined that she needed to do two things. First, have her vehicle repaired so she could have reliable transportation and, second, to obtain her license in social worker. Being a recent graduate of Cleveland State University's undergraduate Social Work program, Ms. Ross is required to take a standardized test to receive her license. She knew that in order to successfully pass this test she would need to pay for additional courses. As a result of financial constraints, Ms. Ross could not afford to do either.

While working with CMHA's Jobs Plus pilot program, she became aware of the of benefits of the Opportunity Corridor Project. Because of this project, residents in Wards 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to receive assistance in obtaining and retaining employment. Ms. Ross decided it was time for her to take advantage of these opportunities, so she reached out to Ohio Means Jobs.

"Abdul Dollar from Ohio Means Jobs was really helpful and patient with me; the process was not difficult at all," said Ms. Ross. With funding from the Opportunity Corridor Project, Ms. Ross was able to receive financial assistance for her vehicle repairs and she has recently completed her license in Social Work training course, with expenses fully covered. "I should be able to pass the test on the first try," said Ms. Ross.

Because of the Opportunity Corridor Project, Ms. Ross is achieving her goals and thrilled about her future. She has recently accepted an exciting new position, is currently enrolled at Cleveland State University pursuing her Master's Degree in Education and is looking to upgrade her living arrangements in the near future. The Opportunity Corridor Project with the assistance from Ohio Means Jobs wants to assist any residents in Wards 4, 5 and 6 with achieving their goals, just like Alicia Ross.

For more stories like this one and to find out additional information about the Opportunity Corridor go to <http://opportunitycorridor.transportation.ohio.gov>.