

Susan came to Santa Maria's program with a looming court date for an eviction. Susan was not being evicted for failure to pay her rent. In fact, she has a Housing Choice Voucher and pays just 30% of her income for housing costs. However, her apartment had failed its annual inspection and the housing authority had stopped making its payment to the property owner. The upcoming eviction would be critical and Susan was afraid that if she lost the eviction she would lose her voucher. If she lost her voucher, she would not be able to afford market-rate rent with the wages she made as a waitress at a diner. She feared the worst: that she and her teenage son would become homeless. After Susan met with a caseworker to complete a household budget and set up an eviction prevention plan, Santa Maria paid \$300 to have the eviction dismissed. Santa Maria then connected Susan with a trusted Price Hill landlord who offered her a new apartment with better conditions. As a result of her budget meeting, Susan realized that the income she had coming in was not enough to meet her expenses and so she picked up an additional shift at work.