

Submitter: Marie Alaniz

On Behalf Of: CASA of Sherwood

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development

Measure: SB5511

I have worked with IDAs for about 9 years now. I have seen many families buy homes or needed used cars. This program helps low income residents who reside in our properties to save for one of four assets, cars and homes being two of them.

Unfortunately there just isn't enough money for everyone who wants to save for an asset thru an IDA program. I have over 25 people on my WAITLIST alone, when residents come to me ready and eager to save for a house, college, retirement or a car, I have to tell them that they have to be placed on a waitlist for 2 to 3 years before they can even join the program. I see how deflated they look and feel. And then remind them that it will be another 2 to 3 years before they complete the program (once they join) to be able to purchase their much needed and wanted asset.

I also get random emails and phone calls from non NHA residents who have seen my name on the CASA website and they want me to help them participate in the IDA program. I have to instantly deflate their eagerness by telling them I can't help them and they need to find another IDA program.

If I could, I would love to offer IDAs full time to anyone who wanted to participate, even non NHA residents. The IDA program is part of my duties as a Resident Service Coordinator.

If there is funding out there, PLEASE consider setting aside millions of dollars so that even more people can be matched and purchase a much needed asset like a home, with prices going up every year and rent going even higher, that would place many people in situations where they can overcome some poverty and even pass that on to their kids.

I am only one voice, but I have seen the benefits of IDAs firsthand and I love to be a part of that for the residents I have had the opportunity to work with.

Thanks  
Marie