

SECTION 3 RESIDENT STORY:

Let's Get to Work!



DWIGHT'S STORY

Just think, at 19, Dwight Thomas, has a world of possibilities in front of him. Dwight grew up at the Imperial Courts public housing community in Watts in a family where education is valued.

For the past several years, Dwight has taken advantage of several opportunities available to HACLA's residents including the Gartner Inc. Section 3 Workshop Trainee Program* and the WIOA Out of School Youth Program.** Most recently, Dwight was one of 25 youth selected to participate in the Los Angeles County Public Safety Prep Program: Fire Cohort. The Program's purpose is to prepare underrepresented minorities for entry-level positions that may serve as a stepping-stone to firefighters, lifeguards and related careers. This is valuable training for Dwight, who dreams of becoming a firefighter and paramedic. In addition to the L.A. County Program, Dwight is enrolled in an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Program at El Camino College. Dwight is on the right track to realize his career goals.

Dwight is the oldest of four children, and a mentor to his sisters and brothers. He says that just seeing him in uniform inspires his siblings to do better. *"Education is key. Start somewhere and it will lead you to a better place."* says Dwight.

Where will your dreams take you? Let's see if HACLA can help you achieve them!

For information regarding career counseling, job training, education and employment assistance please contact HACLA's WorkSource Center at (323) 249-7751.

**Gartner Inc. has provided career workshops to HACLA's residents and community members as part of satisfying its' Section 3 obligations. Following completion of the workshop training, participants continue to receive mentoring, including career guidance.*

***The WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) Out of School Youth Program enables HACLA to provide youth programs and services to residents with their career and educational goals. The Program is administered through HACLA's WorkSource Center located inside the Imperial Courts public housing community.*



Dwight Thomas with Chekyra Ellis, Youth Case Worker (left) and Pamela Paige, Resident Development Program Coordinator (right).

"I want to leave a mark and be a role model for my siblings and the community. Instead of hanging out with friends all day long, youth should think about their futures."

Dwight Thomas

Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, requires that economic opportunities generated by certain U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) financial assistance for housing and community development programs shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be given to low and very low income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to businesses that provide economic opportunities for these persons.

HACLA has developed Section 3 Business and Resident Registries to assist businesses and residents to gain employment and economic opportunities.

SECTION 3 RESIDENTS REGISTRY

HACLA maintains a database of qualified employment-ready Section 3 Residents. Residents take assessment tests, go through a skills review and are provided resources to be employment-ready. Interested residents are encouraged to contact the Human Resources Department at (213) 252-5387 to enroll in the registry. Residents from the Registry are identified and referred to contractors for employment opportunities.

SECTION 3 BUSINESS REGISTRY

Businesses who wish to do business with HACLA, and to provide economic opportunities to HACLA residents are encouraged to contact the Section 3 Compliance Administrator at (213) 252-1865 or via e-mail at section3@hacla.org.

Additional information about the Section 3 program is available at www.hacla.org/section3.