

SECTION 3 RESIDENT STORY:

Let's Get to Work!



Grethel's Story



"This happened very unexpectedly" says Grethel Fuentes as she talks about her job with Estolano LeSar Perez Advisors (ELP). Grethel, a current resident of Pico Gardens, was looking for permanent full time employment when she saw the employment opportunity notice on the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles' (HACLA) website (<http://www.hacla.org/s3residentresources>). She contacted HACLA and in matter of days was interviewed and hired by ELP as a full time Administrative Assistant.

Grethel has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. ELP immediately recognized her abilities, desire to advance, and interest in accounting and has assigned Grethel a wide range of responsibilities. Grethel speaks with excitement about her work and her colleagues, noting the support system, "They push me and motivate me on a regular basis. I have the support here to grow professionally." Grethel has plans to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and is pleased to know that she has the support of ELP.

Years ago Grethel participated in HACLA's Summer Youth Employment Program and was assigned to Los Angeles City Hall for a summer internship. A simple question during her interview played a vital role in her future plans and decision to study Business and Accounting. During the interview, she was asked what subjects she enjoyed at school for a suitable internship placement. She answered "mathematics", which secured her a position in the Financial Reporting Department where she worked with CPAs and Financial Analysts. Excited about paving a similar career for her, she soon enrolled in a community college and later transferred to California State University at Los Angeles where she earned a Business Administration degree with a focus on Accounting.

Prior to moving to Pico Gardens, Grethel grew up in the Nickerson Gardens public housing community. She is one of the seven children in her family and so far the first one to attend and graduate college. She hopes that she is an inspiration to her younger siblings, encourages them to set goals including going to college, and become the best they can be.

Grethel Fuentes is one of the three Section 3 Residents hired by ELP via HACLA's Section 3 program. Leah Hubbard of ELP says that all three referrals were wonderful candidates and had the education and background needed to join their team and do meaningful work. She's pleased that all three candidates were placed in positions and assigned duties that complement their skills and interests.

Estolano LeSar Perez Advisors is assisting Housing Authority to develop a Vision Plan focused on addressing the needs of HACLA's public housing portfolio, preserving and expanding affordable housing in Los Angeles and improving economic and social outcomes for the households and communities HACLA serves.

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.