

2005 EXCELLENCE IN HOUSING AWARDS
Integration of Services in Housing
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Oregon for Listos Program



'Listos' is a resident services program for adults and serves as a successful model for improving workforce skills among farmworker residents and linking them to community workforce resources.

Listos began in the Fall of 2002 in the Housing Development Corporation's Jose Arciga Apartments, a residential in-fill development for farmworker families. Starting with a responsive Resident Services Plan, Listos was designed to meet the needs of 134 resident farmworker households in Forest Grove and Cornelius. The program is intended to increase tenant's economic independence, enabling more families to move to market rate housing. Tenants typically are adults with low literacy and/or very limited English proficiency who are not able to utilize or access many community-based workforce programs due to low skill levels, costs, distance to programs or lack of cultural accessibility. Listos serves as a stepping stone program to link students to local employment and workforce resources. Residents receive childcare assistance during classes, and instructors pay special attention to structuring the program to meet the social needs of often-isolated adults.

Today this model is now in operation at HDC Community Centers at the Montebello Apartments in Hillsboro and the Reedville Apartments in Aloha. Residents are provided with 50 units of housing affordable to households at 40% of area median income. These units maintain a 'village' atmosphere through a pedestrian-friendly design, three Community Learning Centers, playgrounds and kitchen gardens. Residents can access community services by walking, biking or by taking mass transit.

Listos provides the opportunity for farmworker families to access a learning program that can help them become self-sufficient.