



Helping neighbors build strong communities

## March 15, 2016 Enewsletter

### In This Issue

Financial Opportunity Center  
Opens in Petersburg

### Quick Links

[Virginia LISC](#)  
[National LISC website](#)  
[Previous Newsletters](#)  
[Donate to LISC](#)

### Address

One Monument Avenue  
413 Stuart Circle, Suite 300  
Richmond, VA 23220

### Donate To VA LISC

[Donate](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## Petersburg Welcomes First Financial Opportunity Center

Petersburg's first Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) opened its doors in February. The FOC, named Pathways Works, is housed at Pathways, a nonprofit that helps people with employment, good health and community revitalization.

"We wanted to have a quiet opening first, to make sure we had everything straightened out," said Juanita Epps, CEO of Pathways. A public ceremony for the opening will be held in April.

FOCs, a national LISC model, are career and personal finance service centers that help low- to moderate-income people build smart money habits and focus on the financial bottom line. And they are proven to work.

"FOCs are effective because they bundle financial services and provide them all in one location," said Ebony Walden, the Virginia LISC FOC program manager.

Data from a research report shows that of the individuals who accessed the integrated set of services at FOCs, 74 percent found jobs, 78 percent remained in those jobs and 76 percent increased their incomes.

Petersburg FOC, Pathways Works, is the second FOC to open in Virginia. The Garland and Agnes Taylor Gray Foundation and the United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg are helping to support Pathways Works. It is run by a Financial Coach, Ron



Financial Coach, Ron Brown, and Employment Coach, Angel Ampey, work with an FOC client.  
Photo: Ailsa Long

Brown and an Employment Coach, Angel Ampey and overseen by Epps. A college intern will also be brought on board to help out with the center. Ampey and Brown have been busy getting the word out and conducting orientations each week on Wednesdays.

"There is a severe need for a program like this in Petersburg," said Brown. "So when we went out and distributed flyers around town, everywhere we went we were received very well."

"Our goal is to have 100 clients enrolled by February of 2017, and we are already on our way to reaching that goal," said Epps.

For more information on Pathways Works, contact Juanita Epps at [jepps@pathways-va.org](mailto:jepps@pathways-va.org) or at 804-862-1104 ext. 311.

For more information on Financial Opportunity Centers, visit the [Virginia LISC website](#) or the [National LISC website](#).

**[Need a refresher on LISC? Check out the Video](#)**

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on  twitter