

What is S.T.E.P.?

Santee-Lynches Tenant Empowerment Program



The Sumter County Regional Home Consortium, serving Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter Counties of South Carolina, has developed a self-sufficiency program to offer housing rental assistance to eligible residents. By partnering with area workforce development partners, the HOME Consortium offers short-term rental assistance to individuals or families whose gross annual household income is 80% or less than the median income for their county of residence. The Consortium's goal is to assist those whom are participating in workforce development training or who are furthering their education in order to become self-sufficient. The Consortium provides assistance to participants for a one (1) year period with the goal of assisting those individuals and their families to become self-sufficient through job-training and skills development by the end of their program assistance period.

If you feel that you or someone you know may benefit from our services, please call Dahlia Miller at 803-934-4129 or email dmiller@slcog.org to schedule an appointment.

The Mission of S.T.E.P. is to aid those who qualify with housing responsibilities, the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency while enrolled in full-time secondary education or in a educational funded facility.

Sumter County Regional Home Consortium
2525 Corporate Way, Suite 200
Sumter, SC
SanteeLynchesCOG.org



In partnership with:



SANTEE-LYNCHES TENANT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM



*Your Path to
Self-Sufficiency*



Steps of the Process

1. Referral by SC Works or another partner organization.
2. Initial application intake.
3. Documentation of eligibility.
4. Establishment of a self-sufficiency program (Individual Employment Plan).
5. Issuance of rental coupon to candidate.
6. Approval of tenant-selected rental unit.
7. Unit inspection and tenant lease approval.
8. Owner agreement.
9. Lease execution.

All program participants will be required to complete monthly Self-Sufficiency Individual Training and Services Plan. After one year, candidates must resubmit eligibility documentation and, if qualified, may continue for one additional year.



The Program

In an effort to address the housing needs of our region, the Sumter County Regional HOME Consortium has developed a workforce development-focused rental assistance program. It is our goal to assist in allowing you to expand your skills or training in order to improve your opportunity for full-time employment. The aim is that you will be able to commit your time to a training program, apprenticeship, college, or technical school classes that will pave your way to a brighter and more successful future.

Approved educational providers for **S.T.E.P.** assistance include:

- Central Carolina Technical College
- USC–Sumter / USC–Palmetto College
- Morris College
- Midlands MedTech
- FORTIS
- Strayer University
- University of Phoenix
- St. Leo University
- Troy University
- Francis Marion University
- Professional Development & Training Svcs. LLC
- WIOA/SC Works
- County Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies

Program Requirements

- Must be enrolled at an institution of higher education (listed in the brochure) or a workforce training program approved by the Consortium. **Additionally** meet at least one of the following criteria: Be 24 years/older, military veteran, married, have at least one dependent child, or in the Santee-Lynches Regional Re-entry Program
- Must meet HUD income requirements for assistance.

Assistance provided:

Assistance provided will be the difference between total rent and 30% of gross household income, with a maximum of \$500.00 per month.

Example:

Rent is \$750.00 per month
Gross household income \$15,000.00/12 months=
\$1,250.00. 30% = \$375.00

In this example, the Consortium would contribute \$375.00 per month.