

On September 9, 2020 the Housing Commission and staff of the Housing Authority of the County of Alameda (HACA) recognized **Jacqueline (Jackie) Rodriguez**, a participant in HACA's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program.

With encouragement and support from her HACA FSS Coordinator and HACA staff, Jackie applied for a 2020 Pacific Southwest Regional Council of NAHRO (PSWRC-NAHRO) Scholarship. Jackie was selected by PSWRC-NAHRO as the regional scholarship winner and her application was chosen for submission to the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) scholarship program. NAHRO has partnered with LDG Development to provide \$1 million in scholarships and internship opportunities to low-income students from around the country and HACA was thrilled to learn that Jackie was selected as one of three 2020 NAHRO-LDG Scholars!

Jackie shared the following in her personal essay:

"I am passionate about helping at-risk and formerly incarcerated youth find a better path so that they can envision a promising future, realize their potential, and pursue higher education... My passion stems from my own experiences as an at-risk and formerly incarcerated individual... I continued to struggle and face many barriers, however, at the age of 20, with two small children, I decided that I needed to further my education because I wanted to be a role model for my kids and set a good example of a successful Latina woman. I have learned that the odds stacked against me were systemic and not a testament of my abilities and potential for success. As a single mom, I am working tirelessly to show my children that their circumstances do not define them. Not only am I working towards obtaining an advanced degree but I am parenting with the intention of breaking the cycle of intergenerational trauma and being of service to help and heal my community..."

Jackie was accepted to UCLA and plans to pursue degrees in English and Law. HACA is proud of Jackie and we wish her well as she begins her new journey at UCLA.