

ways to work loans for working parents

Families revved up by Ways to Work*

Georgi DeCosta may not drive a fancy SUV, but she's proud of her 14-year-old Mazda Protege sedan because it represents a major accomplishment.

Two years ago, the 31-year-old mother of three couldn't afford a car nor qualify for a traditional loan. Her credit had been set back by some unpaid medical bills, and the lack of wheels made it difficult to get to her job.

Then DeCosta found Ways to Work, a YWCA of O'ahu program that helps employees buy cars. She qualified for a \$4,000 car loan and recently paid off the balance.

DeCosta is a good example of how the program works. She's a single parent who lives in Kane'ohe but works in town. She has three children but had no car. DeCosta said she struggled to arrange rides for herself and her children.

DeCosta said the program has not only helped her to get a car, but it's also led to a new job as a program assistant at the nonprofit Hawai'i Community Foundation.

"The whole idea is building blocks," DeCosta said. "You get a way to work and then you can have the income and get all the other things that come with that."

Who can apply?

To be eligible for a Ways to Work loan application, you must:

- Have enough income to afford monthly payments.
- Work at least 19 hours per week for 6 months before applying, OR be a post high-school student with verifiable income.
- Meet income limits. (Ex. \$54,250 for a family of four)
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Be a parent and an O'ahu resident.

* Story adapted from article in Honolulu Advertiser, November 13, 2006.



How does the program work?

Please call YWCA of O'ahu at (808) 237-2634 to see if you qualify to participate in the Ways to Work program. We are unable to accommodate walk-in visits without an appointment.

Loan decisions are made by a committee of volunteers from banking, business, social service and public administration professions. After approved customers attend money management training, all loans are funded, closed and serviced by American Savings Bank.

Loan purposes and uses

Ways to Work loans help parents keep a job, get a better job or stay in school. Loan uses and maximum amounts include:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------|
| • Used car purchases | \$ 4,000 |
| • Car repair | \$ 750 |
| • Housing | \$ 850 |

Even if you have poor credit history, we encourage you to call us at (808) 237-2643

For more information, please visit www.ywcaoahu.org

Fernhurst YWCA

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