



San Antonio Housing Authority  
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# News Release

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## SAHA PREPARES TO INVEST \$14.5 MILLION IN STIMULUS FUNDS

SAN ANTONIO (June 10, 2009)– The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) Board of Commissioners has approved the agency’s plan to invest \$14.5 million in federal stimulus funds to repair and upgrade many of San Antonio’s public housing properties. Out of 349 Texas housing authorities that received stimulus money, SAHA received the largest amount.

SAHA received the funds as a result of the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which requires that the money be used solely for capital improvements. All funds must be fully spent within three years.

“These funds will allow us to make much-needed repairs to our public housing properties and improve the safety and quality of life for our residents,” said Lourdes Castro Ramirez, SAHA President and CEO.

The plan approved by the Board details the various projects to be funded by the stimulus monies. They include, Lewis Chatham Apartments, a 119-unit senior apartment complex on S. Flores St., on the City’s South Side, which will undergo comprehensive modernization. Additionally, the stimulus funds will be used to upgrade security, elevators and fire safety at nearly 20 elderly communities and the Convent, an historical structure in SAHA’s Springview community. Twelve family properties will receive playground upgrades to improve the safety and utilization of common areas. Additional improvements at various properties include replacing fencing, windows, roofing, cabinets and HVAC systems.

“Another tremendous benefit to our community is the jobs that will be created as this work gets underway,” said SAHA Board Chair Ramiro Cavazos. “As we procure the contractors to perform this work, we will strongly encourage participation of small and minority-owned businesses. We will also give additional weight to contractors that commit to actively recruiting employees from the neighborhoods in and around where this work will occur.”

“SAHA is committed to meeting the Recovery Act’s accountability and transparency performance metrics, and focused on accelerating the pace for spending and job creation,” added Castro Ramirez.

SAHA has already awarded contracts to two local firms, to perform engineering and architectural services related to the ARRA-approved projects. Within the next 60 days, SAHA plans to issue additional requests for proposals for companies to bid on the construction portion of the projects. Interested firms can contact SAHA’s Procurement Office at 477-6059 or visit [www.saha.org](http://www.saha.org).

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