



San Antonio Housing Authority  
818 S. Flores St.  
San Antonio, TX 78204

# News Release

**Date:** July 9, 2010  
**Contact:** Jamie Kaun, (210) 477-6792  
jamie\_kaun@saha.org

## **SAHA RECEIVES NEARLY \$12 MILLION FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC HOUSING COMMUNITIES**

*Funding award is the highest in Texas*

SAN ANTONIO – The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) has been awarded a total of \$11,915,587 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for capital improvements to public housing communities.

“Capital improvements are critical to lengthen the life of our public housing properties, most of which are 60-70 years old, and ensure they are safe and healthy environments,” says Lourdes Castro Ramirez, SAHA President and CEO.

SAHA is receiving a \$9,744,572 Capital Fund Grant for capital improvements to its public housing communities, such as upgrading utilities and HVAC systems, roofing, and interior updates like cabinets and fixtures. In addition, HUD is awarding SAHA \$2,171,051 in Replacement Housing Factor Funds, which allow public housing authorities to demolish dilapidated units or to acquire or build new public housing units.

“Although we’re pleased to receive this funding, it’s far less than what we need each year to adequately address the deferred maintenance needs of our 70 public housing communities,” says Castro Ramirez. “HUD is currently exploring additional opportunities for public housing authorities to secure funds for capital improvements, such as through leveraging private debt.”

In addition to this new award of funds, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) is currently funding improvements at 37 public housing properties, to improve the quality of life for more than 2,600 residents, like upgrades to HVAC systems, windows, roofing, safety and sustainability repairs to playgrounds, and complete modernization.

“We’re grateful for the capital improvement funding and additional funding like the Recovery Act, which allow us make much-needed improvements to our properties and benefits our community through the creation of new jobs and preservation of existing jobs for others,” Castro Ramirez says.

While contracts are still being awarded for the Recovery Act work, SAHA has currently awarded 60 percent of contracts to 24 San Antonio businesses and one in Boerne. Through March 2010, 37 jobs have been created or retained by contractors, with much of the work still to be awarded.

SAHA provides housing assistance to more than 65,000 children, adults and senior citizens. SAHA owns and manages 6,175 public housing units at 70 properties and owns/or manages 6,612 affordable housing units at 44 properties. In the last three years, SAHA has added nearly 3,000 newly constructed housing units in mixed-income communities with a value of \$284 million. In 2010, 641 newly constructed units will come online at a cost of \$105 million. SAHA is ranked seventh on the *Affordable Housing Finance Magazine’s* 2010 list of Top 50 Housing Developers.

###