



San Antonio Housing Authority  
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# News Release

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## SAHA RECEIVES HUD GRANT TO HELP FAMILIES GET JOB TRAINING AND EDUCATION

SAN ANTONIO – The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) received a \$97,853 grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS).

The program allows participants the opportunity to become self-sufficient by helping them establish goals, such as getting out of debt, securing a steady job or obtaining an education.

“Becoming self-sufficient involves more than just having a job,” says Alfred Valenzuela, SAHA interim president/CEO. “This comprehensive program looks at several factors, ranging from childcare and transportation to education and job training, all of which affect an individual’s ability to become economically independent.”

The five-year FSS program involves a community-wide network of agencies in health, social services, education, skills training and other supportive programs that help participants achieve their goals.

An interest-bearing escrow account is set-up for program participants. Whenever a participant’s rent increases due to their income increasing, the difference is deposited into the account. The participant qualifies to receive the escrow funds when they have achieved the income goal for their size family as set by HUD guidelines.

Since the FSS program began 17 years ago, SAHA graduates have received more than \$200,000 from their escrow accounts.

“We have graduates that were homeless and are now homeowners. Some work as teachers, nurses, librarians, respiratory therapists and housing managers,” says Alfred Valenzuela, SAHA interim president/CEO.

“This program not only helps people get on the right path financially but it helps them in so many other areas of their lives.”

For more information on the FSS program, contact Barbara Daniels at (210) 477-6456 or Joseph Enderle at (210) 477-6465.

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