



San Antonio Housing Authority  
818 S. Flores St.  
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## **SAHA RECEIVES LARGEST HUD GRANT IN THE NATION TO PROMOTE FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

***\$413,273 Will Promote Job Training and Education***

SAN ANTONIO – The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) has been awarded a \$413,273 grant, the largest in the nation, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), to help public housing residents find jobs that lead them toward economic independence.

The grant will fund SAHA's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program and will be used towards the salaries of eight caseworkers who will work with program participants, assisting them with job placement, training and education opportunities to increase income earned and reduce the need for assistance.

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 overcome barriers to achieve their economic goals. Participants sign a contract outlining their responsibilities for completion of training and employment objectives over the five-year period.

Additionally, an interest-bearing escrow account is set-up for program participants; and whenever a participant's rent increases due to their income increasing, the difference is deposited into the account, which the participants can access following graduation from the program. Since 2001, the 199 graduates from the Public Housing and the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) FSS programs have received more than \$1.3 million from their escrow accounts.

"SAHA is committed to improving our clients' quality of life and providing them the resources needed to achieve their goals of financial independence," said SAHA President and CEO

Lourdes Castro Ramírez. “These funds will provide access to the educational and job training opportunities needed to improve the earning potential of our client families.”

The HUD Prospective Study reported earlier this year that participants between 2005 and 2009 who completed the program, experienced substantial financial benefits. The study, which took place between 2005 and 2009, also found individuals who participated in the FSS program fared better financially than those who did not enroll.

For more information on SAHA’s FSS program, contact Alicia Walter (210) 477-6026.