



# News Release

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## ***SAHA RECEIVES HUD GRANT TO EXPAND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS***

**SAN ANTONIO –** The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) is one of only 12 housing authorities across the nation to be awarded a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to increase the hiring of public housing residents.

SAHA will utilize the grant to hire a full-time Section 3 Program Coordinator, to augment the agency's job training and outreach activities. Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 promotes new employment, training, and contracting opportunities on federal HUD-funded projects, requiring that when certain HUD-funded recipients hire new personnel, that 30 percent of those new hires be low-income persons.

"This funding advances HUD's commitment to investing in people as well as buildings in areas of the country that need it greatly," said John Trasviña, HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "Having a Section 3 Program Coordinator has been shown to be a best practice, maximizing a grantee's ability to promote jobs, contracts, and training opportunities."

"We are committed to providing employment and job training opportunities," said Lourdes Castro Ramirez, SAHA President and CEO. "This funding will allow us to devote a position to matching hiring businesses with low-income residents, providing individuals with the opportunity to earn a living wage and to become financially independent."

SAHA has established specific procurement goals and contractor expectations to strengthen its Section 3 program. Those efforts have resulted in growth from no Section 3 vendors a year ago to 17 today, and the numbers continue to grow. A Section 3 vendor is a business that is owned by a low-income eligible resident, or employs low-income residents in full-time positions, or subcontracts with businesses that provide economic opportunities to low-income persons.

This grant was competitively awarded, with applications from 85 housing authorities and local and state governments from around the county. According to HUD, grants were awarded based on the applicants' demonstrated commitment to partner with other local agencies.