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Contact: Jamie Kaun, (210) 477-6792
Jamie_kaun@saha.org

SAHA Launches \$2.5 Million Jobs-Program at Alazan-Apache Courts and Mirasol Homes

New Site-Based Program to Increase Residents' Wages

SAN ANTONIO – The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) announced today that more than 1,000 residents living at Alazan-Apache Courts and Mirasol Homes will have the opportunity to participate in a new employment and community building program – the Jobs-Plus program – thanks to the recent award of \$500,000 annually over five years.

Councilman David Medina, SAHA leadership, Catholic Charities, and residents were on hand to celebrate the official kickoff of the Jobs-Plus program, a site-based approach to job placement and career services.

“SAHA currently has several programs aimed at providing resources and support to residents for self-sufficiency, including job employment,” said SAHA Board Chair Ramiro Cavazos. “But what makes this program different and unique is the level of one-on-one support participants will receive from on-site counselors and community support from their fellow residents.”

The SAHA Jobs-Plus program will be supported by the Social Innovation Fund (SIF), a new public-private partnership administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service designed to grow high-impact organizations delivering proven solutions. SAHA was competitively selected by the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City, one of eleven Social Innovation Fund intermediaries, in partnership with the Center for Economic Opportunity, the City of San Antonio, and MDRC, a leading social policy research organization. Local partners providing matching funds include Catholic Charities and the Annie E. Casey Foundation with United Way of San Antonio providing in-kind services.

“With dedicated funding, engaged residents, committed local and national partners, and a targeted community building and employment strategy, we will be able to improve educational and employment outcomes and build viable housing communities,” said SAHA President and CEO Lourdes Castro Ramírez.

“The intersection of education and employment is critical to the future of our city and our economy. I commend SAHA for implementing the Jobs-Plus program which continues the agency's efforts to encourage adults to obtain an education and acquire needed skills for employment,” said San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro.

The Jobs-Plus model, initially designed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, MDRC, and a consortium of funders, is designed to raise and sustain the level of employment and earnings among residents of public housing developments by providing on-site counselors who will work with them to receive services tailored to their individual needs.

In addition, the model also features a community-building component, which seeks to strengthen social ties and support for work among residents, and provides access to a range of financial incentives and work support services.

The Jobs-Plus model was initially piloted over a four-year period at six public housing communities across the country, with diverse racial and ethnic groups. Results show that where the model was fully implemented Jobs-Plus made a substantial difference in residents' earnings. Based on this evidence, New York implemented the first replication of Jobs-Plus in the nation in 2009.

In addition to San Antonio, the Jobs-Plus program is being replicated at a second site in New York, NY, with support from the Social Innovation Fund.

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