



News Release

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SAHA RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ASSIST HOMELESS VETERANS IN SAN ANTONIO

*Latest Award Brings SAHA's Funding for Local Veterans' Assistance to
\$1.5 million*

SAN ANTONIO – The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) has been awarded an additional \$157,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (VASH.) The funds will provide 25 vouchers for homeless veterans to access affordable housing with an array of supportive services.

The new funding brings the total of VASH funding awarded to SAHA to \$1.5 million annually, allowing SAHA to serve 265 households. SAHA received its first VASH grant in 2008, a second one in 2009 a third installment in 2010, and this is the fourth round of VASH funding to assist homeless veterans.

“To me it’s been a blessing,” says Army veteran Roger Brooks, who currently receives one of SAHA’s VASH vouchers, allowing him to have a home. “It’s something that all veterans should have the opportunity to have if they are homeless.”

Participants in the VASH program receive rental assistance along with case management. Clinical services for VASH participants are provided by the Veterans Affairs (VA) at its medical centers. The VA then refers eligible veterans to SAHA for their housing needs. Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately-owned housing and contribute no more than 30 percent of their income towards rent.

According to a HUD-VA joint study released earlier this year, veterans are 50 percent more likely to become homeless than other Americans. Additionally, minority veterans have an even greater chance of ending up on the streets or in homeless shelters.

“We are working diligently, as are many of our partners throughout San Antonio, to eradicate homelessness from our community,” said Lourdes Castro Ramírez, SAHA President and CEO. “We are very pleased that this funding will allow us to further expand our services to veterans, certainly deserving of a home after putting their lives on the line for our nation.”

The VASH program is one component of SAHA’s various homelessness initiatives, including a partnership with Haven for Hope.

Interested homeless veterans must be income-eligible and must be referred to SAHA by the local VA office. To contact the local VA, please call 210-616-9915.

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