



NEWS RELEASE

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SAN ANTONIO NAMED AMONG CITIES TO EXTEND HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND FOR STUDENTS IN ASSISTED HOUSING

SAN ANTONIO, TX – President Obama and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro have announced San Antonio as part of **ConnectHome**, an initiative to extend affordable broadband access to families living in HUD-assisted housing. Through ConnectHome, Internet Service Providers, non-profits and the private sector will offer broadband access, technical training, digital literacy programs, and devices for residents in assisted housing.

The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) had begun bridging the digital divide back in 2013 with the installation of free Wi-Fi in 50 community rooms of public housing developments.

“America’s challenge in this 21st century is to remain the world’s undisputed land of opportunity”, said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. “By expanding broadband adoption, **ConnectHome** will provide more Americans with the same high-speed access to knowledge and opportunity that millions of people already enjoy.”

One of 28 communities, San Antonio was selected through a competitive process that took into account local commitment to expanding broadband opportunities; presence of place-based programs; and other factors to ensure all are well-positioned to deliver on ConnectHome.

“With more than half of SAHA’s population under the age of 18, this initiative speaks volumes to our goal of empowering and equipping our residents to improve their quality of life,” said David Nisivoccia, SAHA Interim President and CEO. “**ConnectHome** will help increase their learning and earning potential with access to research tools for homework, job training and employment resources.”

San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA)

SAHA provides housing assistance to over 65,000 children, adults and seniors through its Public Housing, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and Mixed-Income housing programs. The Agency employs more than 525 individuals, with an annual operating budget of \$186 million, and real estate assets valued at over \$500 million. SAHA's affordable housing programs include 71 public housing properties, more than 13,000 vouchers in the Housing Choice and Special Voucher Programs, and 45 properties in a Mixed-Income portfolio. The Agency empowers and equips families to improve their quality of life and to achieve economic stability through its commitment of funding and allocated resources, and with the direct involvement of local partners.