



News Release

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

SAN ANTONIO, TX. (November 18, 2011) – The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) today kicked-off the Jobs-Plus Program, a new employment and community building program that will be available to more than 1,000 residents living at Alazan-Apache Courts and Mirasol Homes. This \$2.5 million program is funded by a recent award, with \$500,000 provided annually over a five-year period.

Mayor Julián Castro, SAHA leadership, Catholic Charities, and residents were on hand to celebrate the official kick-off of the Jobs-Plus program, a site-based approach to job placement and career services. “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.

“SAHA currently has several programs aimed at providing resources and support to residents for self-sufficiency, including job training,” 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 is funded 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 sixteen Social Innovation Fund intermediaries. The Mayor’s Fund is working in partnership with the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity, the City of San Antonio, and MDRC, a non-profit social research and policy organization, and national funders including Bloomberg Philanthropies. Local funding partners include Catholic Charities and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, with United Way of San Antonio providing in-kind services. Fundraising is ongoing.

“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.

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

“San Antonio and New York City are tailoring the Jobs-Plus model to fit the needs of our residents,” said Veronica White, Executive Director for the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO). “By working together, we can identify effective approaches and build a compelling case for future investment.”

The Jobs-Plus model, initially designed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, MDRC, and a consortium of funders, seeks to raise and sustain the level of employment and earnings among residents of SAHA’s public housing developments by providing on-site counselors who will work with them to receive services tailored to their individual needs. The first replication of Jobs-Plus was launched in New Your City by CEO in 2009. The Jobs-plus 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.

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