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\$1.2 Million Broadband Technology Grant Helps Create Jobs and Provide Resources for San Bernardino County Families

(San Bernardino, CA) The U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke announced 10 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant awards to provide technology access to underserved communities, boost economic growth and create jobs.

The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB) was one of the award recipients for a three-year grant for \$1.2 million, with an additional \$300,000 match from San Bernardino Training Agency (SBETA) and \$200,000 match from the Housing Authority, to expand and enhance the services via five computer centers located in various housing communities throughout San Bernardino County, specifically in Barstow, Colton, Redlands, and San Bernardino.

The centers will add 25 new workstations, increase broadband speeds, extend operating hours, provide a range of online training workshops, and serve more than 350 additional users per week. Five full-time positions will be created for lab proctors, who will serve as trainers in Microsoft Office software products as well as Internet use.

“The Housing Authority is excited about the possibilities through this grant. The money will go to stimulate job creation and provide resources and tools for San Bernardino County families to achieve economic self-sufficiency through access to broadband technology,” states Susan Benner, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino.

The Housing Authority will also work with various community partners, after-school service providers, local One-Stop partners, and businesses to promote the use of the computer labs and provide additional resources to enhance the services available to residents throughout the County. “The County faces its most serious economic challenge since the 1930s and these computer centers offer the opportunity for the community to take advantage of the computers to access resources for employment and education,” states Marcia Waggoner, Deputy Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, who will oversee the implementation of the grant.

For more information on the exact location of the various computer labs please call: (909) 890-0644.

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The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino is one of the largest public housing agencies in California, providing the critical resource of housing to a clientele of which the majority are seniors, persons with disabilities and children. From providing housing and home ownership, to job training and childcare, the Housing Authority helps tens of thousands of people to elevate their lives every day. For more information on the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, please visit www.hacsb.com