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Low Income Families Succeed in Employment and Educational Advancement *Partners Work to Help Families Thrive Through New Housing Requirements*

(San Bernardino, CA) Term limits and “work” requirements infused with case management and job related resources is proving to be successful for the various low income housing residents at the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB).

Tasked with a special Congressional designation aimed at developing locally designed strategies to better serve low income housing residents, HACSB is a unique agency. Only 1% of all housing authorities throughout the Country have this designation and can customize their housing programs and services.

One of the three goals of this designation is helping work-able housing residents – non-elderly/non-disabled - achieve economic independence. HACSB has implemented two programs to meet this challenge: five year term limited assistance and a pilot “work” requirement.

Households under both of these programs have access to extensive workforce readiness and job attainment services, life skills workshops, and case management assistance. Through these services, families have the opportunity to secure better employment and achieve other personal and professional goals.

Both programs were implemented over two years ago, and the results to date are impressive:

- **Average household income for participating families has increased almost 13%;**
- **Hourly wages range from minimum wage to \$25/hour;**
- **Enrollment in educational programs has increased up to 98%; and**
- **Employment rates have increased up to 59%.**

“The housing assistance, the certification courses, and job placement assistance, have all helping me get back on my feet! I don’t know where I would be now without the Housing Authority,” states Jessica, a participant in the Five Year Lease Assistance Program who secured employment with the County a few years ago through HACSB’s job services.

“The families in these programs work hard to overcome their many life barriers and are eager to succeed. They deserve the credit for these accomplishments,” states Daniel Nackerman, HACSB’s Executive Director. “As an outward focused agency, we have a lot of partners to help us in this endeavor; including the Workforce Development Department who works on actively placing families in jobs and our affiliate non-profit KEYS that provides case management,” continues Mr. Nackerman.

“I’m so glad I took advantage of the job placement services offered. I’m spreading the word to all my neighborhoods, no one has an excuse not to get a job,” states Valerie, a participant of the pilot “work” requirement program who secured a job with Kohl’s one-and a half years ago.

HACSB will continue to build upon its programs and track the progress of the families to ensure mutual success in these unique housing program structures.

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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.