



For Immediate Release

January 15, 2014

Contact: Ana Gamiz

Phone Number: (909) 332-6307

Email: agamiz@hacsb.com

Grant Award Helps Families Move Towards Self-Sufficiency
Housing Authority Receives \$69,000 to Continue Helping Families

(San Bernardino, CA) The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB) with \$69,000 to assist low income families achieve self-sufficiency.

The money directly funds the existing Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program that assists residents of the affordable housing program. The purpose of the program is to help families find and secure stable employment and/or advance their educational goals to eventually help them strengthen their job skills.

The agency's Family Self-Sufficiency Program staff work directly with clients to develop a 5-year plan towards economic independence. As a family's income rises, an escrow credit is deposited into an interest bearing escrow account by the Housing Authority. If the family successfully completes its FSS contract, the family receives the escrow funds that it can use for any purpose, including paying educational expenses, starting a business or paying debts.

HACSB's Community Development Initiatives Department works directly with families to: 1) develop a personalized education and/or professional action plan; and 2) provide on-going case management assistance to ensure each family/individual is achieving their planned goals. Through its established partnerships, staff refers families to existing community resources, whether its access various educational programs, job training and placement, and/or to health and human services.

In December, HACSB was also awarded over \$135,000 to assist families in the Housing Choice Voucher FSS Program.

###

The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino is one of the nation's most progressive housing authorities. As the largest provider of affordable housing in the County, we proudly serve in excess of 30,000 people, most of whom are seniors, disabled individuals, and children. We also work on providing our families with the resources, skills, and motivation to achieve their personal goals. For more information on the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, please visit www.hacsb.com.