



San Antonio Housing Authority
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News Release

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TO: Editor

SAN ANTONIO HOUSING AUTHORITY RESPONDS TO FEDERAL CUTS IN SECTION 8

SAN ANTONIO (May 1, 2008) – The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) Board of Commissioners today approved several cost-cutting measures in response to changes mandated by the recent federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (CAA). These changes will result in an \$11 million reduction in funding for Section 8, Housing Choice Voucher rent payments.

In March, HUD informed all public housing authorities that effective April 1, new federal funding guidelines would be instituted. SAHA currently administers approximately 13,000 vouchers yearly, of which 500 participants are expected to be reduced from the program, and approximately 1,000 will be alternatively assisted in public housing.

“Working with HUD representatives in D.C. and San Antonio, SAHA will immediately implement measures to meet Congress’ new benchmark for the program,” said Ramiro Cavazos, SAHA Board Chairman. “We believe the actions taken will meet the new mandated guidelines, with the least impact on our families. This is part of the new SAHA. Better management, greater efficiencies, and potential cost savings to residents, government and taxpayers.”

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The program will be revised in the following ways:

- ◆ 500 non-elderly/non-disabled participants who are deemed to be self sufficient will be moved off the program.
- ◆ 250 non-elderly/non-disabled high-cost participants will be will be alternatively assisted by public housing effective June 1.
- ◆ 600 non-elderly/non-disabled high-cost participants will be alternatively assisted in public housing at a rate of 100 per month, July through December.
- ◆ 92 elderly/disabled high-cost participants will be alternatively assisted at newly constructed senior communities.
- ◆ 70 participants will be assisted by the Bexar County Housing Authority's Section 8 program

Other cost-cutting measures will include:

- ◆ Issuing of new vouchers will be temporarily halted
- ◆ Portable vouchers will no longer be absorbed
- ◆ Voucher extensions will not be granted

With Board approval, SAHA staff will immediately work to inform those participants affected by the change.

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