



News Release

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin * P.O. Box 6159 * Austin, Texas 78762

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—July 27, 2010

Contact: Monique Hennington, Media Relations Coordinator
(512) 477-4488 ext. 2117
moniqueh@hacanet.org

\$140,500 AWARDED FOR COLLEGE READINESS

WHAT: AUSTIN, Tex. – July 27, 2010 -- The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) was awarded a competitive grant in the amount of \$140,500 from the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Public Benefit Grant Program. The grant will fund HACA's Your Educational Success (Y.E.S.) to College Program providing residents access to college and support services.

HACA's Y.E.S. to College Program will serve three populations of our low income residents: middle school aged youth, high school juniors and seniors, and adult learners.

Middle school programming will consist of a college exploration summer camp, college visits, and summer learning experiences with a parent support component. Students and parents will receive counseling on class choices and college prep options for high school. A smaller group will receive case management and mentoring during the school year, focused on career exploration and academic goal setting.

High school programming will focus on students who have continued to perform academically, or who have struggled yet persisted. These students will be encouraged to explore higher education options and will engage in career exploration, study skills, test preparation, college selection, completion of college and financial aid applications, and will meet with a mentor throughout the year.

Programming for adult learners will include academic assessment, remedial assistance and tutoring, mentoring, career exploration, and academic skill enhancement to ensure that adult learners, who in many cases have additional family and work responsibilities, persist and succeed in higher education.

HACA is pleased to offer services to assist residents to overcome barriers to higher education. The goal is to provide educational programming appropriate for residents at every level on the academic continuum. Programming is expected to begin in late August 2010 and continue throughout the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 school years.

ABOUT HACA: The Housing Authority of the City of Austin is a public agency whose business is to ensure that safe, quality affordable housing opportunities exist for families of low income; break the poverty cycle by serving as a catalyst for our residents to become economically self-sufficient; create meaningful partnerships to maximize available community resources for our residents; and efficiently and effectively meet federal, state and local mandates. For more information, please visit www.hacanet.org.