



# News Release

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CONTACT: Beth Phillips, [bethp@hacanet.org](mailto:bethp@hacanet.org)  
(512) 767-7725

## **HUD Awards \$236,772 to Promote Jobs and Self-Sufficiency in Austin**

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) Citywide Advisory Board recently received a three-year \$236,772 Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Service Coordinators Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The ROSS grant will allow HACA to retain two full-time service coordinators and support a workforce development manager and Youth Educational Success manager. These staff members create and maintain community partnerships that link individuals and families living in public housing to self-sufficiency support services.

Coordinated services include: lifeskills training; adult basic education and literacy services; GED attainment; workforce development and job training; job counseling and job placement; financial literacy training; housing counseling and homeownership preparation; parenting classes; health and wellness classes; Youth Educational Success programs; childcare and transportation assistance; and information on benefit programs that can help families successfully transition to economic self-sufficiency.

“ROSS programs serve as a vehicle to create long-term, positive changes that allow public housing residents to find employment that will lead them toward economic and housing independence,” said HACA President and CEO Michael Gerber. “HACA’s ROSS program is a stepping stone for the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program that provides connection to similar supportive services and allows participants to complete individual goals through modules that build upon one another.”

The ROSS program will serve more than 300 adults throughout the grant term, with an average of approximately 250 adults enrolled at any given time. This is HACA’s eleventh ROSS grant received in the past 15 years. The successful implementation and positive outcomes achieved in the ROSS Program, have benefitted HACA by supporting HACA’s selection for other HUD grant awards.

**About the Citywide Advisory Board:** The HACA Citywide Advisory Board is a resident-run nonprofit organization representing the needs and interests of residents at each of HACA’s 18 public housing properties.

**About HACA:** The Housing Authority of the City of Austin is a public agency whose mission is to cultivate sustainable affordable housing communities and partnerships that inspire self reliance, growth and optimism. For more information, visit [www.hacanet.org](http://www.hacanet.org), or find us on Twitter [@hacanet](https://twitter.com/hacanet).

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