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HUD AWARDS \$3 MILLION TO THE HOUSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY TO HELP LOW-INCOME PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS SECURE HIGHER PAYING JOBS

HOUSTON— In an event held at the Houston Housing Authority today, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Deputy Assistant Secretary Dominique Blom and Congressional Representatives Al Green and Shelia Jackson Lee today announced a \$3 million grant to the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) to help residents at the Cuney housing development increase their earned income and become self-sufficient. Nationally, the Department announced a total of \$24 million to nine grantees.

HUD's [Jobs-Plus Pilot Program](#) supports work readiness and connects public housing residents with employment, education and financial empowerment services—and it's a model proven to help public housing residents find and keep jobs. **A summary of Houston's grant follows.**

"Jobs-Plus is not just an initiative, it's a pathway to greater prosperity for folks across the nation," said Deputy Assistant Secretary Blom. "With today's funding, the Houston Housing Authority will be able to help its residents find employment in today's job market so they can build a better tomorrow."

Tory Gunsolley, President and CEO of the Houston Housing Authority said, "HHA is excited to be selected for this innovative new program that will provide residents at Cuney Homes an opportunity to achieve their education and training goals to get to self-sufficiency. Along with HUD and our partners, we will use this opportunity to make the lives of Houston families better every day."

The HHA, in partnership with Workforce Solutions, Texas Southern University, Houston Community College, SER Jobs for Progress, the Urban League, and United Way THRIVE, will use its grant to assist up to 300 Cuney residents with job training and career counseling over the four years of the program. It will also provide other necessities for workforce development, such as child care, transportation, after-school care and supplies. The Houston Food Bank will provide food scholarships as an incentive. With today's HUD grant, partnerships, contributions and leveraging, the HHA will have a total budget of \$8.4 million for the program.

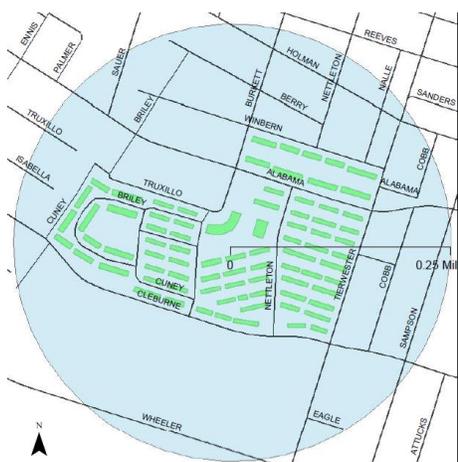
HUD's *Jobs-Plus Pilot Program* links the housing authority system with employment and training services, new rent rules that make work pay, and neighbor-to-neighbor outreaching—demonstrating how cross-agency partnerships make a difference in the economic prospects of public housing residents. These grants will employ several principles of the [Administration's Job Driven training checklist](#) to ensure that public housing residents are connected to a program that is using evidence-based practices that work for job seekers and employers.

The *Jobs-Plus Pilot Program* capitalizes on a [successful demonstration](#) program that combined traditional employment, training and job placement services with a rent incentive and a place-based investment in building community support for work.

ABOUT HHA:

The Houston Housing Authority provides affordable homes and services to more than 58,000 low-income Houstonians, including over 17,000 families housed through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and another 5,700 living in 25 public housing and tax credit developments around the city. HHA also administers one of the nation's largest voucher program exclusively serving homeless veterans. More information about the Houston Housing Authority can be found at www.housingforhouston.com.

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Houston, TX
Houston Housing Authority

Jobs Plus Grant Amount: \$3,000,000.00

PH Development: Cuney Homes

Key Partners:

Gulf Coast Workforce Board (Workforce Solutions), SER Jobs for Progress, Texas Southern University, Houston Community College, Houston Area Urban League, United Way THRIVE

Purpose of the Program:

The purpose of the Jobs Plus Pilot program is to develop locally-based, job-driven approaches to increase earnings and advance employment outcomes through work readiness, employer linkages, job placement, educational advancement technology skills, and financial literacy for residents of public housing. The place-based Jobs Plus Pilot program addresses poverty among public housing residents by incentivizing and enabling employment through income disregards for working families, and a set of services designed to support work including employer linkages, job placement and counseling, educational advancement and financial counseling. Ideally, these incentives will saturate the target developments, building a culture of work and making working families the norm.

Project Summary:

Houston’s economy is booming and many businesses are struggling to fill middle skill job openings. In fact, Houston will add nearly 75,000 middle skill jobs annually through 2017, a rate nearly double the national average. This need, coupled with the fact that Cuney Homes, the targeted Jobs Plus site, has 423 non-disabled working age residents that are unemployed or under employed, lead the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) to believe a significant impact can be made to both the employers and residents of the City of Houston. The Houston Housing Authority’s objective is to establish a career-pathway approach to resident self-sufficiency that connects varied skill and employment backgrounds with numerous educational, training, and supportive services, as well as financial and other incentives, through a participatory-style workforce development program. Within a 48 month period residents will be engaged in integrated services that serve three overarching goals: 1) employment-related services, 2) financial incentives, and 3) community support. HHA is committed to using an evidence based approach in implementing the program to ensure success for their families and promote long term self-sufficiency.

