



HOUSING AUTHORITY of the

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VICE CHAIRMAN:
COMMISSIONER:

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City of
BROWNSVILLE

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HACB is awarded a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Grant by the Department of Housing and Urban Development

BROWNSVILLE, TX DECEMBER 22, 2020—The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded more than \$79 million in Grant Awards to nearly 700 public housing authorities across the nation for their respective Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. Funds will help residents of public housing and voucher-assisted housing increase their earned income and reduce their dependency on public assistance and rental subsidies. HACB Board of Commissioners Chairman, Luis Eduardo Garduño stated, “On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and myself, we want to thank HUD for granting our PHA these allocations of funds continuing to empower individuals within our community through our FSS program.”

The Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville (HACB) is 1 of 36 Public Housing Authority's (PHAs) in Texas selected to receive the 2020 Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Grant allocation in the amount of \$166,274. Funded through HUD's Family Self-Sufficiency Program, these grants enable PHA's to collaborate with social service agencies, community colleges, businesses, and other local partners to help participants further their education, gain marketable skills, and otherwise increase their income potential through new employment or by advancing in their current workplace. Since the inception of the program a total of \$518,398.97 has been awarded in Graduation Escrow to 141 individuals. “Through the Leadership at the Housing Authority we have seen the positive outcomes from the programs they offer not only to their residents, but to the entire community one of them being their Family Self-Sufficiency program” remarked City of Brownsville Mayor, Juan “Trey” Mendez III.

Participants in the program sign a five-year contract requiring the head of the household to obtain employment. In addition, individuals who successfully complete the requirements of their FSS contract receive the escrow funds upon completion and can apply those funds to advance their personal circumstances including but not limited to, paying educational expenses, or making a down-payment on a home.

"On behalf of the HACB Board of Commissioners, I would like to thank HUD for their support towards our FSS program", said HACB CEO Carla Mancha. "Thank you to our FSS Coordinators Cesar Barrera, Magda Fernandez, Ana Trejo and their supervisor Supportive Services Director Hilda Ledezma for providing the quality counseling and guidance to our families. This program has helped families stop the cycle of dependency. I encourage all our families to take advantage of this program. It has proven to transform families for the better."

We would like to thank our Board of Commissioners, Chairman Luis Eduardo Garduño, Vice-Chairman Jesse Miller, Commissioner Michael Seifert, Commissioner Ruben Herrera and Resident Commissioner Laura Villarreal for their support and leadership. On behalf of Administration, we would also like to recognize Grants and Special Project Manager, Ana Trejo for her work on the grant application.

ABOUT HACB:

The Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville is a High Performing Housing Authority for both the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing program. HACB serves over 3,800 low-income families in our community. HACB is the twelfth largest housing authority in the State of Texas and the largest south of San Antonio, Texas. HACB has authority to administer 2,599 Housing Choice Vouchers, operates, and manages five Public Housing developments, six RAD properties and is the General Partner to ten tax credit developments all located within the City of Brownsville. It is the mission of the HACB to provide access to affordable, quality housing, and achieve self-sufficiency through education and collaborative partnerships, for all residents of our community.

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