

Press Release
October 13, 2011

The Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin recently announced that it was one of just 12 public housing agencies nationwide which were awarded a \$50,000 grant to hire a coordinator to increase the local hiring of low to very-low income persons and public housing residents. This award by Housing and Urban Development agency ("HUD") under the Section 3 program grant was the first time in that program's 40 year history that funding was provided to a local jurisdiction.

Now, the Housing Authority, and its subsidiary, Villa Real, are pleased to further announce the award by HUD of three, perhaps four, additional, competitive grants which will be funded over the next 12 to 36 months. First, \$412,470 was granted under the ROSS Public Housing Service Program permitting the employment of two coordinators for three years who will assist residents in setting and achieving goals relating to education, employment, savings accounts and home ownership. Second, a grant of \$120,442 was awarded by HUD's Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency Program ("FSS") to hire a program coordinator whose task will be to assist public housing residents in maximizing local training opportunities and then connect with job placement organizations, and employers. Finally, the sum of \$131,116 was awarded under a Housing Choice Voucher FSS grant which will employ one coordinator to assist welfare agencies, schools, businesses, and other local partners in providing participating FSS family members currently in the choice voucher program with the skills and experience to enable them to obtain employment that pays a *living wage*. In addition, the Housing Authority is hopeful for yet a fifth grant, the renewal of the Multi-Family Service Coordinator for the Elderly, which is designed especially for the residents at the Housing Authority's Franco Center.

Although these awards are very competitive, the Housing Authority continues to seek such grants because they not only create local job opportunities but also provide essential training and education enabling its residents to achieve self-sufficiency, an important goal of the Housing Authority. Rudy Willey, the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners for the Housing Authority, had this to say: "I am proud that our Housing Authority staff has the skill and experience necessary to secure grants like these. The funds create sorely needed jobs and provide professional counseling to families that gives them a pathway out of poverty and attainment of self sufficiency."

These grants collectively provide economic development through job creation as the Housing Authority also expands its goals of promoting self-sufficiency, independence from government assistance and increased efficiency in its operations. As the role of government changes during these difficult economic times, the Housing Authority continues to both anticipate and plan for the future. A full description of these grants and the Housing Authority's overall operations can be found at its website:

<http://www.hacsj.com/>.