

Press Release
September 30, 2011

The Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin is pleased to announce that it was just one of twelve housing authorities, nation wide, which was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant to increase the hiring of low-, very-low income persons and public housing residents. Although eighty-five housing authorities and local and state governments nationwide applied for this competitive national grant, the grants were awarded to those Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) with high unemployment and a demonstrated commitment to partner with other local agencies. "I am pleased to congratulate the San Joaquin County Housing Authority for their successful tri-county regional effort to secure funding for a Section 3 Coordinator," said HUD Regional Administrator Ophelia B. Basgal. "The Section 3 program grant is about investing in people and this is the first time in the program's 40 year history that funding has been provided to local jurisdictions to hire a coordinator. The coordinator's position will maximize the tri-county region's ability to promote jobs, contracts, and training opportunities."

All PHAs regardless of size or number of units are required to comply with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (Section 3) which promotes new employment, training, and contracting opportunities on federal HUD-funded projects. Section 3 also applies to grants of more than \$200,000 from other housing and community development programs including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership, Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grants (NSP 1, 2 & 3), Homeless Assistance Grants (ESG) and Economic Stimulus Funds to name just a few. John Trasviña, HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity stated, "The funding announced today advances HUD's commitment to investing in people as well as buildings in areas of the country that need it greatly. Having a Section 3 Program Coordinator has been shown to be a best practice, maximizing a grantee's ability to promote jobs, contracts, and training opportunities." Once the grant monies are received the Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin will immediately hire a full-time Section 3 Program Coordinator to implement the HUD program.

In an effort to maximize the local impact of this Section 3 grant, the Housing Authority of the County of San Joaquin, as the lead agency, has already established a tri-county coalition (Coalition) consisting of these regional partners: San Joaquin County Workforce Investment Board, Housing Authority of Stanislaus County, Merced Housing Authority, San Joaquin County, Stanislaus County, Merced County and the City of Lodi. The Coalition will continue to develop innovative ways to most effectively and economically cooperate in creating regional employment, training, and other economic and business opportunities.