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HANO Awarded \$2.3 Million Jobs Plus Grant By HUD to Connect Low Income Families with Improved Employment Opportunities

New Orleans, LA (July 26, 2018) – This week, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) will receive \$2.3 million to build upon existing partnerships that will assist families living in public housing in achieving employment - related and other self-sufficiency goals.

HANO is one of seven Public Housing Authority recipients of the Jobs Plus Grant Program Initiative. A total of \$14 million will be distributed among the seven, of which HANO will receive the highest amount awarded, to continue creating programs that will help residents of the Bienville Basin and Faubourg Lafitte communities secure higher paying jobs through programs focused on employment, educational and financial empowerment.

"My administration embraces HANO as a top priority. I have strengthened the board leadership and charged executive management with a renewed commitment to attacking the affordable housing crisis from every angle, including jobs," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "In my meetings with HUD, they have indicated that HANO has turned a corner for the better after decades of chronic dysfunction and mismanagement. The agency has now emerged as a national model. That was HUD talking the talk - this grant award is HUD walking the walk, and showing proof of their confidence in HANO, with \$2.3 million that will help connect our people with new job opportunities. It's a clear indication of the progress made, and the momentum we intend to build on."

"We are thrilled to gain more federal funding that will leverage additional neighborhood and community partnerships in support of job readiness and self-sufficiency initiatives," said Executive Director Gregg Fortner. "The Jobs Plus program will give us an opportunity to enhance existing programs, and develop additional programs with the anticipation of helping more of our residents gain economic sustainability."

The Jobs Plus Initiative Program was developed to create locally-based, job-driven approaches that will 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. Program participants will be connected to community supportive services that encourage self-sufficiency in partnership with the United Way, Providence Community Housing, HRI Management/Lodging, Southeast Legal Services, Operation Spark, Backatown Coffee Shop, Youth Empowerment Project, Fidelity Bank, STRIVE NOLA and Crescent Affordable Housing, with the objective of building a culture of work and making working families the norm.

The program will be focused within the Bienville Basin and Faubourg Lafitte communities. Program participants will receive assistance in securing employment, increasing their income, and moving toward self-sufficiency. Each participant will be offered case management as a part of the program strategy, and will be connected to services designed to support work, such as adult education, digital literacy, job readiness, employment placement, credit counseling and bank management.

For more information on HUD's Jobs Plus Initiative, visit www.HUD.gov.

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