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HANO Kicks Off 2016 Summer Youth Initiatives

National Initiative expands access to educational, recreational and employment opportunities for youth

New Orleans, LA (June 10, 2016) - This week, the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) launched its annual summer enrichment activities to engage youth and young adults ages 5 to 21 in educational, recreational and employment opportunities during the summer months.

HANO kicked-off its Summer Employment Program providing 115 high school and college students, between the ages of 14 and 21, with job opportunities during their summer break. This year's program participants have the opportunity to develop vital job skills in a variety of career fields that include the Orleans Parish Civil District Court, McNeil Pediatrics, DJ's Learning Academy, Anytime Fitness, and much more. This program is an extension of President Barack Obama's national youth initiative to connect participants to job skills training programs, and educational curriculums as they continue their path of becoming productive adults.

"We continue to prioritize the engagement of our youth during summer months to keep them focused while on school break, and to afford them with opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable. Continuing to fund this program is vital to this goal and has been recognized on the national level, leading to HANO's designation by the White House as a Summer 2016 Opportunity Hub for youth employment, and solidifies our commitment to employing over 100 youth and young adults for the next few months," said Executive Director Gregg Fortner.

HANO began this eight-week employment initiative in 2011 through public-private partnerships with several local organizations, offering hands-on experience in a professional workplace. The program provides an opportunity to develop vital job skills in the government sector, and in the medical, legal and insurance fields. Participants will also attend life skills seminars, and ACT Prep classes hosted by Job1 Business and Career Solutions.

As a testament of the success of this program, HANO employed two former Summer Employment participants, placing them in full-time positions in the Finance and Information

Technology Departments. Both participants were featured in a blog written by HUD Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Public and Indian Housing Lourdes Castro-Ramírez as she announced HANO's designation as a national Opportunity Hub for the White House's 2016 Summer Opportunity Project. This designation follows President Obama's pledge of nearly \$6 billion in new funding in the 2017 budget for work experience programs that expand access to summer employment and supportive services for youth across the country. Launched in February, the **2016 Summer Opportunity Project** is a multi-agency effort, in collaboration with the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) and other national partners, to significantly increase youth participation in summer opportunity programs, decrease youth violence during the summer and provide the necessary support for young adults to find their first job.

Additional programs include summer camps for youth ages 5 to 12 in four (4) HANO communities. Participating camp sites, including The Estates, Fischer, Harmony Oaks and Faubourg Lafitte, offer a wide range of activities focused on visual arts, music, dance, computer literacy and sports for registered participants. HANO continues its partnership with the No Kid Hungry Campaign this summer to provide nutritious meals to summer camp participants ages 18 and under at The Estates community. The Client Services case management staff at The Estates, in conjunction with the HANO Police Department and The First Tee, will continue to host a golf program to teach youth the fundamentals of golf in addition to character education and life skills training. Golf classes will resume on Tuesdays for summer camp participants beginning Monday, June 13 to Wednesday, June 22.

HANO, in collaboration with HUD, will also partner with the Fischer, Bienville Basin, Marrero Commons and The Estates communities to host its Sixth Annual Father's Day activities. Each site will provide a variety of free activities including empowerment sessions, health screenings, legal services, games, music, food and much more for its residents.

On Saturday, June 11, Faubourg Lafitte Tenant Association (FTLA) will host a Lafitte Retreat to encourage community building and partnership at the Lafitte Greenway. During the event, Dr. Jim Ewers, Ayanna Molina, Deacon Allen Stevens and Derek Shack will discuss the issues affecting the Lafitte community. Topics of discussion will consist of preparing the next generation for success, how to deal with bullying and drug prevention for all ages. Following the retreat, FTLA will hold a crawfish boil for participating residents.

On Saturday, July 16, HANO's Department of Client Services will partner with Hammond's Transportation and Daughters of Charity to host the Sixth Annual School Supply Giveaway at Mildred Osborne Charter School in New Orleans East. Participating families will receive free school supplies, health screenings, food, games and music in celebration of the upcoming 2016-17 school year. Since 2010, Mark Hammond has sponsored the Back to School event to assist local children and families as they prepare for the next school session.

HANO will partner with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana on the Crescent City Keepers (CCK) mentoring initiatives. The CCK program is a mentoring initiative where an "anchor" or "host" organization serves as the base for a mentoring relationship between three mentors and a single mentee. The Housing Authority will serve as a host institution, and its

employees will coordinate the mentoring of at-risk local youth. Training for mentors will begin on Saturday, June 18 to Saturday, June 25.

Dillard University, in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank and Daughters of Charity Health Center, invited HANO residents to the Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters for Adults Program, which offers free cooking classes to help low-income families purchase and prepare healthy, affordable meals. The six-week cooking course teaches participants how to cook nutritious food, make the best decisions at the grocery store, and understand basic nutrition labels. Upon completion of the six courses, participants received free groceries every week and a free book of healthy recipes. Participants were required to attend at least four of the six classes to graduate from the program.

To view HUD's blog featuring HANO Summer Employment Program participants, visit <http://blog.hud.gov/index.php/2016/05/16/transforming-lives-with-summer-youth-job-opportunities/>. For more information on HANO's summer youth initiatives, visit www.HANO.org.

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