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Contact: Ana Gamiz
Phone Number: 909-890-0644 x2531
Email: agamiz@hacsb.com

FAMILIES SAVE MONEY THROUGH GREEN UPGRADES

HOUSING AUTHORITY AWARDED \$3.4 MILLION FOR ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS

(San Bernardino, CA) The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB) received \$3,356,000 for energy efficiency and green upgrades for 337 apartment units at the Medical Center complex through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

This grant will facilitate green retrofits to increase energy efficiency and environmental performance. The upgrades will assist in conserving the environment as natural resources continue to deplete, as well as help both families and the Housing Authority save money. “The money for these upgrades will give us the opportunity to provide a healthier living environment for residents,” states Susan Benner, Executive Director.

The upgrades to all 337 apartment units include replacing inefficient lighting, windows, water heaters, refrigerators, cooling systems, lead-based paint with low volatile organic compounds (VOC), adding attic insulation, and installing Photovoltaic systems to convert solar energy into electricity to further reduce electricity consumption at the Medical Center complex.

Earlier this year, the Housing Authority also secured \$9 million in private funding for energy and water conservation measures to its’ other apartment complexes in Barstow, Chino, Colton, Fontana, Redlands, and San Bernardino. “The Housing Authority is now investing approximately \$12.4 million for green technology upgrades, that will provide substantial water, energy, and cost savings immediately, especially for the residents,” continues Mrs. Benner.

As these upgrades take place, residents are also learning various ways to use water responsibly and conserve energy through regular on site community training meetings. Residents have become mindful of their water consumption and attempt to keep it within reasonable limits. These upgrades are transforming entire households and the Housing Authority hopes that this will also influence others in the community. “Overall the changes have been very positive, and the short run investment is worth it because our residents, our community, and our economy will benefit tremendously as project are completed,” reiterates Mrs. Benner.

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The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino is one of the largest public housing agencies in California, providing the critical resource of housing to a clientele of which the majority are seniors, persons with disabilities and children. From providing housing and home ownership, to job training and childcare, the Housing Authority helps tens of thousands of people to elevate their lives every day. For more information on the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, please visit www.hacsb.com