



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE  
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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## **Impact of Housing Budget Cuts on San Bernardino County Families** *Federal Budget Balanced on the Backs of the Needy*

(San Bernardino, CA) In an effort to provide more than just housing to families in the various housing programs, the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB), collaborates with various partners to provide supportive services at their various housing sites, including after-school programs for kids and youth. Unfortunately with the recent \$38.5 billion in spending reductions enacted as part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 federal budget, many safety-net programs find themselves faced with tough decisions, including HACSB.

Most of the after-school program services that once provided services to hundreds of children and teens are no longer available due to budget reductions. However, the federal budget cuts are deeper and not limited to eliminating after-school services.

As the largest provider of affordable housing and serving approximately 30,000 families throughout the County, the enacted federal budget cuts to the agency are over \$2.2 million resulting in its' ability to serve families – primarily seniors and veterans; provide less resident services that promote self-sufficiency; and delay and/or eliminate capital improvement projects to its' affordable housing developments, especially at two of its oldest housing sites in San Bernardino and Redlands, where plans to revitalize the properties are underway.

With the County's unemployment rate close to 14%, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> in the country in foreclosures, with more than 50% of the state budget cuts coming from health and human services leveraged by our families, and HACSB's waiting list of approximately 50,000 applications, these budget cuts will only exacerbate the economic conditions faced by many families throughout the County of San Bernardino. Funded primarily by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), HACSB is waiting to receive the exact budget reductions.

"We continuously communicated the affects of the budget cuts to our Congressional Representatives and urged them to consider the domino effect the cuts would have on already struggling families and communities throughout the County," states Susan Benner, HACSB's Executive Director. "They understood and the cuts are not as severe as initially estimated, but still deep enough for these tough economic times when many families rely on the housing services, landlords on the housing assistance payments, and vendors on the various contracts for services they provide to our families," Benner continued.

Approximately 67% of those on HACSB's housing program are seniors, children and individuals with disabilities, and these are the individuals that would most be affected through this budget proposal. "We will do our best to maximize our funds and minimize the impact on our families and communities while we brace for the FY 2012 budget."

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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](http://www.hacsb.com)*