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## **HOUSING AUTHORITY INFUSES \$7 MILLION TO TRANSFORM COMMUNITY IN SAN BERNARDINO**

*Steps Toward Building Communities – Changing Lives*

(San Bernardino, CA) The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino's (HACSB) slogan *Building Communities, Changing Lives* is in full force as the construction rehab and enhanced resident services unfold for the 296 apartment units at the Medical Center complex in San Bernardino.

"The Housing Authority is moving towards a two-prong approach to transform this community: 1) construction rehab work and 2) improving resident services to help resident reach self-sufficiency," states Susan Benner, HACSB's Executive Director. The money for these efforts came from a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and private funding.

The construction rehab work includes complete remodeling of the exterior and interior green upgrades. "Approximately 75-80 workers are out here daily working on completing the exterior construction," states Maurice Camp, HACSB's Project Manager. These upgrades will increase energy efficiency and environmental performance, help conserve natural resources as they continue to deplete, and families will also save money and live in a healthier environment.

As these upgrades take place, residents are learning various ways to use water responsibly and conserve energy. These upgrades are transforming entire households. "Through all this work, the residents' self-esteem has rocketed. We feel like we live in a modern community. Look at all the work...for us...for the community," states Yvonne Dowling, resident of the community.

The Housing Authority has partnered with Loma Linda University to conduct a needs assessments of the residents to gain a better understanding of the daily challenges residents face and how we can better serve them. Through this assessment, the Housing Authority will bring together partners to help residents leverage the resources available in San Bernardino. "We want to provide more than just housing for our residents and this is a great start. One day we want to open a community resource center for all residents in San Bernardino County. This will be a place where families and community providers can come together," states Mrs. Benner.

Below are pictures of the before, during, and after construction work:



Original Unit Condition



Under Construction



Completed Unit



Post-Construction and Landscaping

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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).*