



The Housing Authority of the City of Austin

**Bringing Opportunity Home**

# ABOUT HACCA

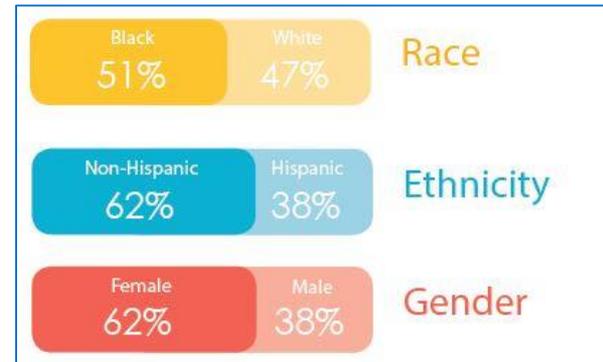
- HACCA was one of the first three housing authorities to receive federal funds from the Housing Act of 1937.
- HACCA is separate from the City of Austin – it is a quasi-governmental organization (PHA) supported primarily by federal funds.
- HACCA has been designated by HUD as a high-performing agency for 15 consecutive years.



# WHO WE IMPACT

- ▶ HACA provided housing to 18,550 people in 2015-16:
  - ▶ 18 public housing developments
  - ▶ Over 5,800 vouchers
  - ▶ Included 9,084 children
  - ▶ Over half of the HACA population is under age 18
- ▶ The average annual income of a family in public housing is \$11,004, and is only about \$2,000 higher for those in the Housing Choice Voucher program.
- ▶ The average length of stay for families in public housing is 7.9 years.
- ▶ Due to high demand for affordable housing in Austin, HACA has received a high volume of applications for placement on its public housing waiting lists. Most of HACA's property-specific waiting lists will close effective April 20.

## RESIDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



# HOLISTIC SERVICES

- ▶ HACA is committed to providing supportive services to all members of each HACA household (as needed), and operates from the principle that services must be person and family-centered
- ▶ Overarching goal is to provide tools and resources to residents to break the poverty cycle
- ▶ HACA's supportive services align with CAN's Person-Centered Principles:
  - ▶ Consider my whole family
  - ▶ Provide services where I am
  - ▶ Develop a system that works for me
- ▶ A continuum of services are offered across the age spectrum – from early childhood education, and academic support and enrichment for school aged children, to basic education and higher education and training for adults, and “aging in place” services for older adults
- ▶ Most of these services are provided on-site in community rooms at HACA properties
- ▶ HACA recognizes the unique make-up of families and has provided a number of multi-generational programs and services
- ▶ HACA also selects community-based partner organizations based on their ability to address the needs of the entire family
  - CIS – Home visits and parent input into case mgmt. and youth services
  - Boys & Girls Clubs – Family Nights
  - Play to Learn Parenting Classes
  - Goodwill – Childcare support
- ▶ Additionally, HACA has certain policies and programs that specifically prioritize the needs of children:
  - ▶ Homeless preference
  - ▶ Family Unification Program
  - ▶ Summer programming to maintain academics and momentum

# YOUTH EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS (Y.E.S.)



*Children who maintain perfect attendance and A's and B's on their report cards are invited to an end-of-the year field trip as part of the Y.E.S. Incentive program.*

- ▶ 30 students are enrolled in the Communities In Schools (CIS) Compass to College at two Austin high schools.
- ▶ CIS' SmartKids Program provides afterschool tutoring and enrichment activities two days a week at Booker T. Washington, Santa Rita, Bouldin Oaks, and Meadowbrook.
- ▶ The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area operate at three HACA public housing sites serving nearly 300 children – Thurmond Heights in north Austin, Chalmers Courts in east Austin, and at Meadowbrook in south Austin.
- ▶ More than 60 children from Rosewood Courts and Booker T. Washington participate in Boys & Girls Clubs programming at the East Club located across from Booker T. Washington at the former site of L.C. Anderson High School.

# YOUTH EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS (Y.E.S.)



*HACA hosts back-to-school events each year to provide young HACA residents with essential school supplies including backpacks, folders, markers and pencils.*

- ▶ Creative Action Project provides afterschool and Saturday arts programming at Santa Rita. Youth ages 6-13 engage in arts activities while working individually and cooperatively on social and emotional skills with the guidance of skilled teaching artists.
- ▶ The Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts of America provide educational programs for boys and girls to build character and prepares them to meet real-world challenges.
- ▶ Any Baby Can provides parenting classes for parents of children in pre-K through graduation as well as groups for children. Parent and youth curriculums include similar themes, so parents and children can discuss and practice new skills at home together.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



*Skillpoint Alliance provides industry-specific job skills and computer skills training to prepare residents for successful careers. Program offerings include certification programs that prepare residents for entry-level employment healthcare, manufacturing and construction.*

- ▶ Jobs Plus ATX, a new HUD program designed to implement complete immersion with public housing residents at Booker T. Washington Terraces and Chalmers Courts, provides residents with tools to work their way to long-term employment and self-sufficiency.
- ▶ HACA provides child care assistance for qualified residents enrolled in a self-sufficiency program and working, attending school or a job training program, or actively seeking employment.
  - ▶ The Childcare Voucher Program provides monthly childcare assistance directly to a licensed childcare provider for the children of residents working or attending training thirty or more hours a week.
  - ▶ The Self-Arranged Childcare Reimbursement Program assists residents who are working or attending school less than 30 hours per week. The resident sets up their own payment system with a childcare provider. HACA then provides a small reimbursement for each day care is provided.
- ▶ Goodwill Industries provides computer training, customer service skills training, job search and job placement services.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



- ▶ Austin Area Urban League provided job readiness and office skills training, case management, job placement, and other job training classes.
- ▶ BEACON Workforce Development is contracted to provide career assessment, case management, job readiness and employment placement for adults under the HACA Workforce Continuum. These direct and supportive services will help HACA residents remove barriers to employment and achieve job success. BEACON has particular expertise in helping those who are judicially involved or have a criminal history.
- ▶ The Economic Growth Business Incubator provides office space, materials, computers, and classes in business management for those who have the desire to start a business.
- ▶ The Literacy Coalition's Learning Center provides Workplace Competency courses designed for specific job training and workplace skills, GED and Adult Basic Education.
- ▶ Austin Community College offers Adult Basic Education, GED preparation and ESL classes.

# RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION (RAD)

## Conversion of Public Housing to Project Based Rental Assistance Protections, Improvements & Choice for residents

**Protections:** Residents continue to pay 30% of monthly income in rent, right to return to original property, no PBRA re-screening, maintain resident services

**Improvements:** significant physical upgrades to properties

**Choice:** property-specific waiting lists, Choice mobility after 2yrs

- ▶ With this program we are:
  - Improving Resident Lives through Structural Improvements
  - Preserving deep housing subsidies for the next 40 years
  - Sustaining & Expanding HACA resources

Before



After

