

# PRESS RELEASE

**Travis County Housing Finance Corporation (512) 854-4743**  
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## **TRAVIS COUNTY ANNOUNCES NEW RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MADE AVAILABLE WITH \$300,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDING**

September 2, 2009

AUSTIN, TEXAS – The Travis County Housing Finance Corporation (“TCHFC”) and the Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Services Department (“HHSVS”) have partnered to secure \$300,000 from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to offer rental assistance and self sufficiency counseling to Travis County families with household incomes below 60% of the median family Income, through the Tenant Based Rental Assistance (“TBRA”) program.

High demand for local rental assistance needs is well documented by long waiting lists at the two Housing Authorities located in Travis County and the TBRA program allows Travis County to continue to address the need for more affordable housing. “Tenant-Based Rental Assistance is another tool that Travis County will use to help families not only obtain safe and decent affordable rental housing,” said County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe, “but it will also place low income families on a pathway to achieving self-sufficient, permanent housing in a healthy community.”

The goals of the TBRA are twofold and both TCHFC and HHSVS will work collaboratively to deliver this program. Very low income families, including residents with special housing needs, will receive rent subsidies, utility costs, security deposits and/or utility deposits, from the TCHFC, while HHSVS will provide the support families and individuals need in order to attain self-sufficiency and maintain permanent housing.

“What truly sets this program apart from other rental assistance programs is the focus on not simply providing one-time assistance to households,” said Rodney Rhoades, Executive Manager for Planning and Budget, “but in helping low-income families transition into affordable, self-sufficient, permanent housing. The goal of self-sufficiency is made possible by the relatively long period of available rental assistance for each individual family (up to 24 months) and a comprehensive Self Sufficiency Plan administered by the collaborative efforts of TCHFC and HHSVS.”

Under TBRA, HHSVS will provide direct, individualized assistance to eligible Travis County residents who reside outside the City of Austin. “Activities to be included in the Self Sufficiency Plan are: the completion of a household budget; setting up specific goals to help the participant become self-sufficient to meet household expenses; and, determining specific household goals prior to the completion of 12 months in the TBRA program,” said Sherri Fleming, Executive Manager of HHSVS. “Participants must commit to and participate in their individualized Self Sufficiency Plan.”

The Travis County Housing Finance Corporation is a non-profit corporation that has helped low and moderate income families and individuals meet their housing needs since 1980. Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Services is the largest provider of basic needs assistance in the county and has provided these services since 1936.

For more information about the TBRA Grant, call (512) 854-4743. For information about how to participate in TBRA, call (512) 854-4100 in order to connect with the nearest community center.

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