



Bexar County Commissioners Court

San Antonio, Texas 78205-3036

210.335.2555

210.335.2926/fax

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Contact: Laura Jesse

210.335.0073/o

210.787.9038/m

Commissioners choose projects for block grant funding

Commissioners Court on Tuesday approved the final selection of 25 community projects to be funded with a total of \$2,992,236 from Housing and Urban Development block grants for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The projects are in the areas of public service, infrastructure, housing, public facilities and economic development, all priorities identified in the County's 2011-2016 Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

"Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME and Emergency Solutions Grants allow us to bolster the efforts of our community partners with funding that contributes to an array of worthwhile projects," said Aurora Sanchez, director of the County's Department of Community Resources, which administers the grant block programs.

The public facility projects include a basketball court for ASSIST, Inc.; a sprinkler system and security lighting for Casa Helotes Senior Center; and improvements to the senior citizen center parking lot as requested by the Greater Randolph Area Services Program.

"Public projects such as these are essential to the quality of life for the citizens of Bexar County. I am so very proud that we are able to work with all our stakeholders, suburban cities and local area agencies to make this happen" said Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez.

The approved infrastructure projects include the reconstruction of streets in the cities of Somerset, Von Ormy, Balcones Heights, Kirby and Universal City for a total of \$1,064,443.

Ten public service projects will receive a total of \$295,333. The projects range from the San Antonio Food Bank's Fighting Hunger – The Bexar Initiative to program support and transportation for the Somerset Senior Center.

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The approved projects receiving HOME funding total \$536,892 and include tenant based rental assistance for the Housing Authority of Bexar County and the County's Department of Community Resources, which uses the funding to assist families with housing following emergencies such as fires and flooding. The Housing Authority also will receive \$155,522 through the Emergency Solutions Grant Program for its Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, which helps keeps families from falling into homelessness.

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