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HUD Secretary Castro Addresses Affordable Housing and Community Development Experts and Advocates in Baltimore

Baltimore, Md. (October 17, 2014) – Today, Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro laid out his vision and shared his optimism for a productive remainder of his term as HUD Secretary. Castro addressed an audience of more than 1,000 affordable housing and community development experts and advocates at the NAHRO National Conference and Exhibition at the Baltimore Convention Center.

“HUD is the Department of Opportunity, and our collaboration with NAHRO’s membership will help improve the lives of public housing residents across the nation,” said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. “Together we can make housing a platform that connects folks to the education, jobs and other opportunities they need to lift themselves up and better their lives.”

In his short time as HUD Secretary, Castro has so far announced the second Promise Zone competition, awarded $75 million to help low-income residents receive job training and employment, and awarded 22 housing authorities $4.2 million in Project-Based HUD-VASH funds.

“Housing and community development professionals are hopeful that Secretary Castro will be able to expand the number of opportunities for public housing authorities (PHAs) to serve the greatest number of low-income families, children and adults; strengthen the Administration’s commitment to preserving our nation’s public housing portfolio; and reduce the burdens associated with the administration of the Housing Choice Voucher program,” said Saul N. Ramirez, Jr., chief executive officer of NAHRO. “As Mayor of San Antonio, he helped improve the quality of life for thousands of people with his focus on redeveloping San Antonio’s city center through the Decade of Downtown initiative. We’re eager to see what he does at the national level.”

NAHRO is a membership organization comprised of 23,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. Established in 1933, NAHRO’s membership administers more than 3 million housing units for 7.6 million people.

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