



CONTACT INFORMATION:

San Antonio Apartment Association

Teri Bilby, Executive Director

210.818.0464

teri@saaaonline.org

**San Antonio Apartment Association Supports COVID-19
Emergency Housing Assistance Program**

San Antonio, TX, April 23, 2020 ...In response to the growing needs of renters during the COVID-19 pandemic, the San Antonio Apartment Association (SAAA) urges City Council members to approve the \$15.8 million COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program, yet cautions that additional funding is needed.

SAAA supports adding \$10 million to the Program, bringing the total to \$25.8 million. The initial budget is \$15,833,834, which is estimated to support 7,200 to 11,200 families. However, SAAA believes the need is even greater, and supports recommendations to seek additional funds from Tax Increment Finance Zones, the San Antonio Public Finance Corp., and the Parking Enterprise Fund, among other sources.

In addition, SAAA is calling for any rental housing provider that participates in the Program to continue the 25% rent forgiveness and waiving of all late fees for the period that the Program will cover. The Program, which is set to expire on July 31, 2020, will be administered using the same criteria of the Risk Mitigation Fund Policy.

“We applaud our city leaders for all of their hard work during the COVID–19 pandemic. Among all Texas cities, the City of San Antonio has demonstrated incredible leadership in addressing the various issues, including recognizing the inequities in care,” said Selina Lazarin, SAAA President. “Providing rental assistance resources such as this is exactly what San Antonio renters need in order to remain in their homes and is what allows apartment communities to continue to provide safe, well-maintained homes and communities – a basic human need now, tomorrow and every day following.”

The COVID-19 relief funds will be expanded to include groceries, medicine, fuel and expenses related to internet access. Funds for rental, mortgage, internet, and utility assistance will be paid directly to the landlord, financial institution, internet provider, and utility provider. Funds for groceries, gas, and medicine will be distributed in the form of cash assistance or debit cards and will be provided directly to the family receiving assistance. The amount of assistance will be based on family size.

For more information, visit www.saaaonline.org/resources

The San Antonio Apartment Association (SAAA) is a non-profit trade association composed of diverse groups representing and serving the multi-family and rental housing industry whose purpose is to participate in the legislative process, promote professionalism through education, provide a means of communication to our members and support the surrounding communities.

The Association comprises more than 1500 Property Owners, Management Companies and Multi-family Communities representing over 211,000 rental units. Our membership includes over 360 supplier companies providing products and services to our industry.