



March 18, 2021

Mayor Ron Nirenberg
San Antonio Mayor's Office
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, TX 78283

RE: Support for Policy to End Source of Income Discrimination

Dear Mayor and City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH), I am in support of a proposed policy that would *end source of income discrimination by multi-family developments that receive tax incentives within the City of San Antonio*. You have voted previously to protect community members at risk of losing their homes through Risk Mitigation Funds and other initiatives, which kept many individuals and families from experiencing homelessness during the ongoing pandemic. We believe that removing barriers to affordable housing, along with developing additional Permanent Supportive Housing options will have a similar positive effect for vulnerable residents in our community. Around 40 percent of San Antonians who receive rent vouchers are unable to find a place to live, which is a clear sign that barriers are in place making the process too difficult. By voting for this policy, you will help low-income residents gain access to housing that was developed with taxpayer funds without the need for any additional funding or program development. This policy only intends to end source of income discrimination of low-income Veterans, Seniors, and Disabled Persons who use tax-funded programs like:

- Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8)
- HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS)
- VASH Voucher (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing)
- and other types of government or nonprofit administered income, such as SSI.

Broader voucher acceptance will increase our city's affordable housing availability without having to tap into funds set aside for affordable housing projects or homeless prevention programs. By adopting this policy, the City of San Antonio can continue to lead Texas in its efforts to increase housing equity and be an example of acceptance and support for those most in need. With the pandemic widening the affordability gap, we must find new ways now to increase housing opportunities with the limited funding available. For that reason and more, I again extend my full support and recommendation of this Source Of Income Discrimination Policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. Please feel free to contact me if needed.

Sincerely,

Katie Vela, Executive Director