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Features

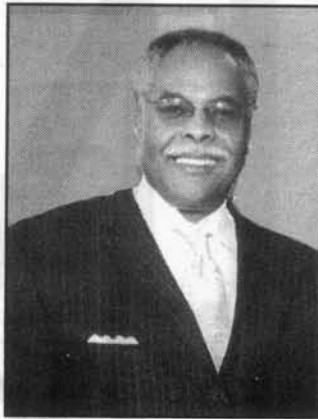
# Tampa Housing Authority Receives Grant For Internet Services

BY IRIS B. HOLTON  
Sentinel City Editor

The Tampa Housing Authority is expecting to bring technology to its residents. Initially, 219 residents will receive broadband installation and computers.

The funding that made this possible is a result of **President Barack Obama's** Recovery Act Investments and the Tampa Housing Authority was selected as one of 66 grant recipients throughout the country. **Ms. Lillian Stringer**, spokesperson for the Tampa Housing Authority said, "We were the only housing authority in Florida that was selected. This will allow us to help bring our residents into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with technology."

The grant, valued at \$2.1 million, will allow the Tampa Housing Authority to provide high-speed Internet service to the residents using Broadband technology. The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunica-



**JEROME RYANS**  
CEO, President of Tampa Housing Authority

tions and Information Administration (NTIA) will administer the broadband funding.

**Jerome Ryans**, President and CEO of the Tampa Housing Authority said, "I am excited at the number of jobs that implementation of this program will create, both short-term and long-term, as well as the potential for economic growth for our public housing families for years to come."

**Ms. Stringer** said both the Seminole Gardens Apart-

ments, with 100 units, and the Arbor At Ruben Padgett Estates, with 119 units, will receive the broadband technology and computers.

She said the Housing Authority is currently partnering with a not-for-profit organization to make 1,000 computers available for the residents. The installation is expected to begin by the end of the year.

However, she said once the broadband is installed, residents can obtain their own computers.

"The broadband service will allow residents to have better phone service, access to on-line education, healthcare information, social services, college classes, and other opportunities. They can go on-line and have access to those services and more at their fingertips."

**Ms. Stringer** said the project will provide direct jobs for at least 12 people and increase the employability skills of hundreds of public housing residents.

BY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY