



November 13, 2014

## Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry  
President & CEO

I am proud to share with you that the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) launched a major strategic plan toward the goal of ending homelessness in the City of San Diego.

This builds on our 35 years of public service, which we commemorated last month with a special recognition for Speaker of the California State Assembly Toni Atkins for her leadership in affordable housing and ending homelessness.

## Three-Year Homelessness Action Plan

**Housing First-San Diego**, SDHC's Homelessness Action Plan, will impact the lives of as many as 1,500 homeless San Diegans over the next three years.

Downtown San Diego's former Hotel Churchill, which is part of **Housing First-San Diego**, served as the backdrop yesterday for an announcement of the plan.

I joined San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer and City Council President Todd Gloria at a news conference to present the details of **Housing First-San Diego**.



(Right to left) San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer  
San Diego City Council President Todd Gloria  
SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry

Developed by SDHC, and in collaboration with partners, **Housing First-San Diego**:

1. Renovates the historical Hotel Churchill to create 72 affordable studios for homeless veterans and former foster youth;
2. Makes available up to \$30 million over the next three years to create permanent supportive housing that will remain affordable for 55 years;
3. Commits up to 1,500 federal rental assistance vouchers to provide housing to homeless individuals and families;
4. Invests up to \$15 million from the federal "Moving to Work" rental assistance program to acquire a property that will set aside 20 percent of its units for permanent supportive housing for homeless San Diegans; and
5. Dedicates 25 of SDHC's own affordable units to temporarily provide homes for homeless individuals and families. SDHC is one of the first public housing agencies in the nation to commit affordable rental housing that it owns for this purpose.

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

[Watch video on SDHC's YouTube Channel](#)

## SDHC's 35th Anniversary

In marking its 35 years of public service to residents of the City of San Diego during October Housing America Month, SDHC on October 30 presented Speaker of the California State Assembly Toni Atkins with its first-ever Champion Award.



San Diego City Council President Todd Gloria (left) presented SDHC's Champion Award to Speaker of the California State Assembly Toni Atkins on October 30.

As a member of the San Diego City Council, Atkins led the effort on August 6, 2002, to declare the nation's first Housing State of Emergency in San Diego. She embodies the spirit of SDHC's role in our community, and her vision of serving low-income families and homeless San Diegans has literally changed lives.

[Read the SDHC News Release](#)

[Watch video on SDHC's YouTube Channel](#)

## City of San Diego's Emergency Winter Shelters Open

For the first time, referrals from homeless service providers are identifying the most vulnerable homeless men and women who are in need of a bed at the City of San Diego's (City) Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter, which opened on Saturday, November 1.

The new referral system replaces a nightly lottery. The most vulnerable individuals will be served first and will be provided resources to help move them into more permanent housing.



The City of San Diego's Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter opened on Saturday, November 1.

A week after the opening of the Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter, the City's Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter also opened on November 8.

SDHC administers contracts with Alpha Project for the 200-bed Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter and with Veterans Village of San Diego for the 150-bed Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter. Both are part of the City's Homeless Shelters and Services Programs, and are scheduled to remain open through April 1, 2015, to provide shelter during the coldest and rainiest months of the year.

[Read the SDHC News Release](#)

## California Local Housing Trust Fund Award

I'm pleased to share news that SDHC received \$1 million from the California Department of Housing and Community Development's 2014 awards for the Local Housing Trust Fund Program, which helps create and preserve affordable housing.

SDHC will be including this award as part of the first \$10 million being made available for permanent supportive housing in **Housing First-San Diego**. We were one of only seven awardees out of 17 applications that were submitted to the state for 2014 funding.

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Gentry  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
San Diego Housing Commission

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