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Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

We head into summer with eyes on our past and future: an historic hotel restored for affordable housing for seniors, and a program to protect San Diego's youngest residents from one of the top childhood environmental health problems.

Here's a briefing on two undertakings at the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) that show the broad scope of our mission to address housing needs, and special recognition SDHC has received in other activities.

Keeping Children Safe

A World War II-era home being remediated for lead-based paint was the backdrop Thursday for the official presentation of a \$2.48 million federal grant to SDHC from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). It will help SDHC and its partners continue our "Home Safe Home" program, which will test homes for lead-based paint and remove the hazard to protect children from lead poisoning.

[Watch the video of the news conference on SDHC's YouTube channel.](#)



HUD presents SDHC with a \$2.48 million grant for the "Home Safe Home" program.



A 1941 Linda Vista home receives lead-based paint remediation.

This grant, our eighth award since 2002, will allow 175 additional homes to be tested for lead-based paint hazards, and 135 to be remediated over the next three years. Additionally, four blood testing events reaching 500 low-income children will be held by our partners at select schools and communities by the Environmental Health Coalition and conducted by La Maestra Community Health Center. The portable blood analyzers were purchased by SDHC through the "Home Safe Home" program.

[Read the news release.](#)

Additionally, 150 low-income households will receive "Healthy Homes" assessments for such problems as rodents, roaches, dust mites, mold and moisture and poor indoor air quality.

Perfect Score

Among the rating measures used by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to evaluate public agencies is the PIC system, which compares the number of housing vouchers provided to SDHC against the number of certification and recertification reports SDHC sends back through a HUD database.

I'm pleased to report that the SDHC Rental Assistance Department consistently achieves a perfect score of 100 percent.

Award Winners

The San Diego Housing Federation last week honored SDHC and its partners with three Ruby Awards for recently completed projects, also funded in part by HUD.



Riverwalk Apartments

Riverwalk Apartments, an energy-efficient affordable housing complex in the Otay Mesa/Nestor community built with our partners at Affirmed Housing Group, was recognized as "Housing Project of the Year - Fewer than 50 Units."

Vista Grande Apartments, a 49-unit complex in Encanto acquired and renovated with Wakeland Housing & Development Corp., was "Housing Project of the Year - Rehabilitation."

And the "Innovation Housing Project of the Year" award went to 15th & Commercial, a 12-story facility built by Father Joe's Villages to provide housing for extremely low- and very low-income residents for which SDHC loaned \$3.5 million in inclusionary funds.

Also, a "Supportive Housing Award" was given to the Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign, for which SDHC provided 125 federal housing choice vouchers, a critical component of the effort to rebuild the lives of homeless San Diegans identified as the most vulnerable individuals.

Saving History

On behalf of SDHC I accepted a Preservation Award from the City of San Diego's Historical Resources Board for our work on a 98-year-old downtown hotel. The award for Architectural Rehabilitation honors "an outstanding example of rehabilitation and adaptive reuse," recognizing our success preserving the character of the Hotel Sandford.

[Watch the video of the news conference on SDHC's YouTube channel.](#)

The project restored an historic color scheme, exterior lighting and wood windows and replicated the original roof-mounted flagpoles, all while rehabilitating 130 rooms and adapting the hotel to modern seismic standards. In its new life, Hotel Sandford preserves affordable housing for low-income seniors for 99 years, funded in part by HUD.

We're proud of the work by our SDHC team and our project partners at Centre City Development Corp. and Heritage Architecture and Planning.



Hotel Sandford Preservation Award for Architectural Rehabilitation.

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

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

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