

## Addressing Homelessness

“We’re About People”



More than 5,700 people are homeless in the City of San Diego, according to the 2013 Regional Task Force on the Homeless Point-In-Time Count. The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) plays a significant role in supporting local efforts that address homelessness.

SDHC contributed more than \$24 million in fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014) toward reducing homelessness and its impact on the community.

Specifically, these programs assist nonprofit agencies that provide housing and services for veterans, families and individuals facing homelessness and who are dealing with disabilities, health challenges, domestic violence and economic instability.

SDHC is one of only 39 public housing authorities nationwide (out of 3,400) to earn a Moving to Work (MTW) designation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a result, SDHC has the flexibility to implement a variety of new approaches to provide housing assistance in the City of San Diego—the eighth largest city in the nation, second in California.

In 2010 SDHC was one of the first in the nation to award federal Sponsor-Based Housing Vouchers to nonprofit agencies, or “sponsors,” that provide supportive services to homeless San Diegans – leading to greater success in stabilizing their lives.



City of San Diego’s Emergency Adult Shelter Program  
SDHC Administers Contract

### Connections Housing Downtown

SDHC played a key role in the creation of Connections Housing Downtown, a City-sponsored, year-round, one-stop homeless center that provides housing and services for 223 homeless individuals. SDHC is a major funding partner in Connections Housing Downtown’s ongoing operations through the annual award of 89 federal Project-Based Housing Vouchers, valued at approximately \$849,660 a year.

In December 2012, SDHC awarded 50 additional federal Sponsor-Based Housing Vouchers that will be used to help formerly homeless individuals ready to leave Connections Housing Downtown find housing in the community while they continue to receive services. The estimated annual value of these vouchers is \$565,200.

SDHC received Housing Authority of the City of San Diego (Housing Authority) approval on March 1, 2011 to provide Connections Housing Downtown with a \$2 million loan to support the \$38 million rehabilitation and development, including an on-site community health clinic.

The 223-bed facility is housed in a historical 12-story building. The service center includes dining facilities, job counseling, case management and mental health screenings—all under one roof. The health clinic is operated by Family Health Centers of San Diego.

Co-developers: Affirmed Housing Group & People Assisting the Homeless (PATH).

Grand Opening: March 11, 2013.

### SDHC Administers Homelessness Programs

SDHC administers contracts for the following City programs, which took effect July 1, 2010:

- Two homeless emergency shelters. One shelter accommodates up to 200 homeless single adults a night. The second shelter, located on Navy property in the Midway District, accommodates up to 150 military veterans a night.
- The San Diego City Council retains the authority to choose the location for the annual emergency shelters.
- The Cortez Hill Family Center provides emergency transitional housing for 45 individual families who can stay up to 120 days. It is operated by the YWCA.
- The Neil Good Day Center in East Village offers homeless individuals services such as laundry, mail, storage, and showers. More than 3,000 individuals a year use the facility.





### SDHC Partnerships

New partnerships have been formed with private and public sector organizations that include housing as a key component of their programs that serve homeless San Diegans. Central to the effort is the provision of housing assistance through federally funded housing vouchers provided by SDHC, which also determines program eligibility.

### Campaign to End Homelessness

SDHC is a driving force behind the Housing First model in the City of San Diego, providing federal housing resources to achieve the goals of the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego (Campaign). Chaired by the Downtown San Diego Partnership and coordinated by LeSar Development Consultants, the Campaign began in September 2010.

In the early morning hours, 240 volunteers counted 1,040 homeless people living on the streets of downtown San Diego. The goal was to identify the most vulnerable individuals, then provide them with homes, medical care and social services. Community partnerships would be essential to this effort.

SDHC allocated 50 federal Sponsor-Based Housing Vouchers and 75 federal vouchers from the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program to provide housing for individuals in this group, while the County of San Diego funded mental health care services. On October 17, 2011, in recognition of the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego and the progress that had been made, an additional 75 federal Sponsor-Based Housing vouchers were awarded by SDHC for a total of 200.

### Home Again—Project 25

Another 25 federal housing vouchers awarded by SDHC are assisting individuals who have the highest use (and cost) of public services related to the impacts of homelessness. Project 25 is a joint effort with United Way of San Diego County.

### Helping Homeless Veterans

As many as 19 percent of San Diego County's homeless are veterans, according to the 2013 Regional Task Force on the Homeless.

For more than a decade, SDHC has partnered with local veterans organizations to reduce the number of homeless veterans living on the streets.

SDHC works closely with the San Diego Health Care System of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide VASH vouchers for homeless veterans.

### Veterans Village of San Diego

SDHC has provided more than \$8.4 million in grants and loans to Veterans Village and supported four expansion projects.

- Phase I: 112 transitional housing beds for veterans receiving rehabilitation treatment. Completed in 2006.
- Phase II: Doubled the capacity to 224 beds in May 2009.
- Phase III: Added 16 three-bedroom, three-bath units in late 2010.
- Phase IV: Added 12 studio apartments with two beds each, designed for low-income veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Completed in 2013.
- Phase V is pending approval from the Housing Authority: Adds 18 transitional housing beds and supportive services facilities, designed to house low-income female veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. In the planning stages. (\$1,444,846)

### Project Homeless Connect

SDHC is the lead organizer for Project Homeless Connect—Downtown San Diego (PHC), a one-day resource fair for homeless San Diegans.

Ranging from winter shelter residents to families living on the streets, 854 homeless San Diegans passed through the doors at Golden Hall at the San Diego Concourse to receive assistance and donations at The 8th PHC on December 4, 2013.

Attendees were provided with health and dental screenings, housing referrals, legal aid, food, clothing, haircuts and

identification cards from the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

More than 690 volunteers and 86 service providers came together to take part in the event.

SDHC major partners are the City of San Diego, Family Health Centers of San Diego, St. Vincent de Paul Village and the Interfaith Shelter Network.

