



December 3, 2015

New Initiatives

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) announced new initiatives for the second year of **HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO**, its three-year Homelessness Action Plan to create additional permanent supportive housing in the City of San Diego.

1. The Guardian Scholars Program at San Diego State University (SDSU) Rental assistance for up to 100 students who have been homeless or at risk of homelessness

- First-of-its-kind partnership in the nation between a public housing agency and a four-year university to provide rental assistance for up to 100 students who have been homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Approximately \$1 million will be directed annually to SDSU's Guardian Scholars Program:
 - SDHC will provide up to \$600,000 annually from Federal Moving to Work funds for this program.
 - SDSU will raise approximately \$400,000 annually to secure a dollar-for-dollar match.
- This partnership will assist youths who are:
 - homeless;
 - aging out of the foster care system;
 - under legal guardianship; or
 - wards of the state.
- The program will launch in August 2016, Fall Semester.

2. The Monarch School Project – For students impacted by homelessness Federal housing vouchers for 25 families

- Pilot program will provide Federal rental housing vouchers for up to 25 homeless families over three years who have at least one child enrolled at The Monarch School, one of the few schools in the nation specifically serving homeless children.
- Families will pay no more than 28.5 percent of their monthly income toward rent. The Federal rental housing vouchers they receive will make up the difference.
- The first family is expected to move into a home in January 2016.
- Families in this program will also participate in the SDHC Achievement Academy.
- The SDHC Achievement Academy provides programs that emphasize career planning, job skills and personal financial education.
- These programs are provided at no cost to Federal Housing Choice Voucher recipients.





3. Award Development Funds – Up to \$10 million Create Permanent Supportive Housing or convert existing transitional housing to Permanent Supportive Housing

- For the second consecutive year, up to \$10 million will be awarded to developers.
- Applications for this second year of funding are being accepted from October 7, 2015 – June 30, 2016, or until all of the available funds have been committed.
- Funding sources include: U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds awarded to the City of San Diego and administered by SDHC; Moving to Work Federal funds; City of San Diego Affordable Housing Fund; and Funders Together to End Homelessness.
- To accompany these funds, for the second consecutive year, SDHC will award up to 300 Federal rental housing vouchers to address homelessness.
- Permanent supportive housing units will remain affordable for at least 55 years.
- Funding will be used to offset total development costs, in combination with additional sources of funding.

HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO Background

Announced on November 12, 2014, **HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO**, SDHC's three-year homelessness action plan to create additional affordable housing with supportive services, will impact the lives of as many as 1,500 homeless San Diegans.

HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, a five-point action plan:

1. Awards up to \$30 million over the next three years to create Permanent Supportive Housing that will remain affordable for 55 years;
2. Commits up to 1,500 Federal rental housing vouchers to provide housing to homeless individuals and families;
3. Renovates the historical Hotel Churchill to create 72 affordable studios: 56 units for homeless Veterans; 8 units for youth aging out of foster care; and 8 units for adults exiting the corrections system who also need supportive services;
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 seniors; and
5. Dedicates 25 SDHC-owned affordable rental units year-round to provide furnished apartments 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 homeless San Diegans.
 - This is a rapid re-housing component of **HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO**.
 - Rapid re-housing assists individuals and families who become homeless because of a recent, unexpected life experience, such as job loss, domestic violence, or a medical crisis.

