



The largest program administered by the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) provides rent subsidies to low-income families through the federal Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program. Funded in 2014 by more than \$140.8 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Housing Choice Voucher program helps more than 14,600 low-income households pay rents they can afford.

- About 54 percent of voucher households are seniors or people with disabilities.
- Voucher recipients generally pay between 30 and 40 percent of their adjusted monthly gross income in rent.
- More than 1,161 voucher households rent directly from SDHC, which owns more than 2,000 rental units in the City of San Diego.
- More than 5,600 private landlords in the City of San Diego rent to Housing Choice Voucher program recipients.



SDHC is one of only 39 housing authorities nationwide (out of 3,400) to earn a “Moving to Work” (MTW) designation from HUD. MTW status allows SDHC the flexibility to design and implement more innovative approaches for providing housing assistance.

Who Is Eligible?

- People who live or work in the City of San Diego.
- Extremely low-, very low-, and low-income families whose combined annual incomes are less than 80 percent of the San Diego area median income, or less than \$64,800 for a family of four.
- Active-duty military and veterans.
- Low-income seniors aged 62 or older.
- Disabled people.
- Homeless individuals.

Waiting List

- Because funding is limited, new applicants for rental assistance may have to wait eight to 10 years before they can enroll in the program.

Choice Communities

Created by SDHC in January 2010, the Choice Communities program helps Housing Choice Voucher participants move to low-poverty neighborhoods in the City of San Diego that offer a broader selection of schools and more employment opportunities.

Neighborhoods in nine ZIP codes are considered “Choice Communities”:

- 92130 - Del Mar Heights
- 92120 - Grantville
- 92037 - La Jolla
- 92106 - Point Loma
- 92128 - Rancho Bernardo East
- 92127 - Rancho Bernardo West
- 92119 - San Carlos
- 92131 - Scripps Miramar Ranch
- 92124 - Tierrasanta



SDHC Achievement Academy

Providing participants a bridge to a better financial future, the SDHC Achievement Academy is located at SDHC's downtown San Diego headquarters.

- The 9,600-square-foot SDHC Achievement Academy is a state-of-the-art learning and skills center and computer lab available at no charge to families receiving federal Housing Choice Vouchers and public housing residents.
- With its expanded curriculum, the SDHC Achievement Academy builds upon the programs it has offered since 1992. The emphasis is on career planning and improving job skills to become more financially self-reliant.
- The SDHC Achievement Academy continues to meet a 1990 HUD mandate that requires housing authorities to help clients become less reliant on government assistance by achieving economic independence.
- The SDHC Rental Assistance Department's Workforce and Economic Development employees serve as workforce readiness specialists for the SDHC Achievement Academy. Area colleges and private-sector partners donate funds or services and/or conduct free workshops.
- The SDHC Achievement Academy's core program is Family Self-Sufficiency, which provides job training, career planning, and financial literacy education. Motivated clients have successfully secured employment, increased their earnings, started their own businesses, and bought homes under a special first-time homebuyer program.

Partners (Partial List)

- Acción San Diego
- AT&T
- Community HousingWorks
- Futures Foundation
- Home Start
- Housing Opportunities Collaborative
- Kelly Services
- KRA Corporation
- Manpower
- Metro Career Center
- Money Management International
- Nova Debt
- South County Career Center
- Springboard
- Thrive San Diego
- United Way
- US Bank



A New Beginning

Laura reached her goal of a career in health care and is working toward financial self-reliance with help from the SDHC Achievement Academy.

A single mother of four who has received Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance for two years, Laura, 29, earned a job as a certified nursing assistant at a local hospital by applying what she learned at SDHC Achievement Academy workshops about resumes, cover letters and job posting websites.



Daycare Business Owner

Shavonne knew she wanted to start and manage her own business. But she needed a road map to guide her.

Shavonne enrolled in the SDHC Achievement Academy and discovered that you don't have to be a millionaire to enter the business world. Today, she operates a successful day care center from her home.

