

SDHC Supporting Military Veterans

"We're About People"

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) supports military veterans through partnerships:

- Administers the City of San Diego's (City) Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter;
- Provides financial assistance in the preservation of affordable housing for veterans;
- Plays a major role in campaigns to help homeless veterans find long-term homes of their own; and
- Administers federal housing vouchers for veterans from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The need in San Diego is well established.

The City's Consolidated Plan for fiscal years 2010-14 states that veterans comprise 20 percent of the City's population of single homeless men. A local veterans' group has estimated there are as many as 3,000 homeless veterans countywide.

The Churchill

The historical Hotel Churchill in Downtown San Diego is being renovated to create 72 affordable studio apartments for homeless individuals.



The Churchill - 827 C Street

SDHC and its nonprofit affiliate, Housing Development Partners, are collaborating to preserve this affordable housing, which will be renamed The Churchill.

The \$17 million rehabilitation project will set aside 56 units for veterans. The Churchill will include on-site social services and case management for residents.

Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)

On July 18, 2014, SDHC announced an additional 177 federal VASH housing vouchers to provide rental assistance for chronically homeless veterans.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines chronic homelessness as being continuously homeless for a year or more or experiencing at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years while also having a disability.

HUD allocates VASH vouchers to SDHC. Including the newly announced vouchers, SDHC has received a total of 797 VASH vouchers since the program began in 2008.

SDHC partners with the San Diego Healthcare System of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide VASH vouchers. The VA provides clinical health and case management services to VASH voucher recipients.

The local VA identifies veterans who qualify for VASH vouchers. SDHC confirms their eligibility and enrolls them in the VASH voucher program.

To remain eligible, participants are required to engage in case management with an assigned VA case worker.

As administrator of the vouchers, SDHC verifies that veterans receiving rental assistance comply with all requirements of the VASH program.

In 2010 and 2012, SDHC also provided a total of 142 VASH vouchers to homeless veterans contacted during two fast-track campaigns to address homelessness in the City:

- The Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego (Campaign) began in September 2010. During the Campaign's first phase, volunteers counted homeless people living on the streets of Downtown San Diego. The goal was to identify the most vulnerable individuals, then provide them with housing, medical care and social services. SDHC directed 75 federal vouchers from the VASH program to provide housing for veterans.
- Sixty-seven homeless veterans in the City obtained housing with a VASH voucher provided by SDHC between May 10, 2012, and August 17, 2012, during the 100-Day Campaign. The campaign was started by the national 100,000 Homes Campaign and Rapid Results Initiative, with support from federal and local agencies.





Emergency Shelter for Veterans

Since July 1, 2010, SDHC has administered the City's Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter in the Midway district. It is operated by Veterans Village of San Diego.

The Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter serves 150 men and women per night, helping at least 300 homeless veterans stabilize their lives and achieve self-sufficiency goals, such as permanent housing and stable income.

In addition to historically providing a warm, safe place to sleep during the region's coldest and wettest months, the Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter offers meals and medical services.

Under a series of City budgeting actions, the Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter remained open from November 23, 2012, through July 1, 2014.

The Veterans Shelter will return to its traditional winter operations in November 2014 under a Memorandum of Understanding approved by the SDHC Board of Commissioners on May 9, 2014, and the San Diego City Council on June 17, 2014.



Veterans Village of San Diego

Since 2001, SDHC has provided financial support to Veterans Village of San Diego, the region's largest provider of housing and social services for homeless veterans.

Veterans Village of San Diego is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation organized in 1981 with the mission of providing housing, substance abuse recovery, mental health services, job training, and job placement assistance to homeless veterans in San Diego County.

The organization operates a five-acre Veterans Village campus at 4141 Pacific Highway, where 350 veterans reside.

SDHC has provided a total of \$9.9 million in loans and grants to Veterans Village to support five expansion projects.

The Phase V expansion, approved by the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego on April 15, 2014, would add 18 transitional housing beds and supportive services facilities to house low-income female veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Homeless Veteran Achieving Goals in Transitional Housing

Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) is helping Edward, 57, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1975 to 1978, make it on his own after six years of homelessness.



Edward lives in VVSD's Veterans on Point transitional housing—Phase III of an expansion of the VVSD campus built with funding from SDHC.

He is saving money with the goal of being able to rent an apartment soon.

Edward moved to VVSD after a three-month stay in interim housing at Connections Housing Downtown. A counselor there helped him overcome personal obstacles to gaining employment.

The plan was step one, two, three, until I got a job, and it was quick," said Edward.

He is now employed by a commercial power-washing firm.

SDHC Loans and Grants to VVSD

Phase 1: 2006	112 beds	\$757,000
Phase 2: 2009	112 beds	\$4,225,499
Phase 3: 2010	96 beds	\$2,000,806
Phase 4: 2011	24 beds	\$1,491,566
Phase 5: 2014	18 beds	\$1,444,846
TOTAL	362 beds	\$9,919,717

