



What is Path to Success?

Path to Success is one of SDHC’s innovative initiatives under the federal Moving to Work (MTW) program. Path to Success modifies the method used to determine the monthly rent payment amounts for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and public housing participants.

Implemented on July 1, 2013, Path to Success also sets minimum monthly rent payment amounts for participants who are identified as able to work (Work-Able). For the first time, approximately 2,200 Work-Able families are now paying toward their rent.

The initial minimum monthly rent payment amounts were based on California’s minimum wage standards—\$8/hour at the time the program was implemented. New minimum monthly rent payment amounts took effect on July 1, 2015.

As this Work-Able population contributes more toward their rents, SDHC’s goal is to expand the HCV program to those families on the waiting list if it is financially feasible. SDHC sees HCV participants as partners in utilizing limited federal funds to help as many families in need as possible.

The SDHC Achievement Academy is a one-stop resource center for HCV participants and public housing residents: employment placement, career improvement, financial education and access to income supports.



The SDHC Achievement Academy helps Work-Able families become more financially self-reliant.

Who Are Work-Able Families?

- Households with at least one adult who is under 55, not disabled, and not a full-time student ages 18-23.
- Full-time students ages 18-23 are considered Work-Able if they are the spouse, head or co-head of the household.
- Adjusted annual income is separated into income ranges. The lower edge of the range is used to calculate the family’s rent payment.
- Adjusted annual income is set at the lowest level of an income range.

Example:

- The monthly rent payment amount for any family with adjusted annual income between \$20,000 and \$24,999 will be calculated using \$20,000 as their income.
- It is possible a family’s monthly rent payment amount may decrease under Path to Success.
- Work-Able families pay either the minimum monthly rent payment amount or the rent payment amount based on the family’s annual income, whichever is greater.

Who Are Elderly/Disabled Families?

- Households where all adult family members are 55 or older, disabled, or a full-time student ages 18 to 23.
- The household’s monthly rent payment amount is calculated at 28.5 percent of the family’s adjusted monthly income, down from the previous 30 percent.
- The minimum monthly rent payment amount for an Elderly/Disabled family is \$0.



Path to Success: Minimum Monthly Rents

- To set the minimum monthly rent payment amount, SDHC determined what a Work-Able household could earn working 20 hours a week at minimum wage.
- SDHC then calculated minimum rent payment amounts that would be approximately 30 percent of that monthly figure.
- Minimum monthly rent payment amounts are set according to the number of adults in the family determined to be Work-Able.
- New minimum monthly rent payment amounts were implemented for Work-Able families, effective July 1, 2015, and will be applied at the household's anniversary month.

Work-Able Adults	Phase 1 (Effective July 1, 2013)	Phase 2 (Effective July 1, 2015)
1	\$200	\$300
2+	\$350	\$500

All Households

- Deductions and allowances are removed for Work-Able and Elderly/Disabled households, except for the utility allowance, child care deduction, and the new streamlined medical expense deduction.
- If the "gross rent" (the contract rent plus the utility allowance) is higher than the monthly rent subsidy, the difference will be added to the family's monthly rent payment amount.
- Income and household circumstances are reviewed every two years.
- All HCV apartment units are also inspected every two years for federal standards that are set to provide "decent, safe and sanitary" housing in the HCV rental assistance program.
- Households that reside in units receiving rental assistance through a federal Project-Based Housing Voucher will stay on an annual inspection schedule.

Hardship Policy

- Families may apply for a temporary hardship exemption from the new minimum monthly rent payment amounts.
- All hardship requests must be submitted in writing.
- If approved, households MUST participate in SDHC Achievement Academy "work readiness" programs for the duration of the hardship period.

Portability Policy

- Work-Able families may only move to another jurisdiction with their HCV rental assistance if they request and receive an exception, such as: employment opportunities, education, safety reasons, a medical/disability need, or other exceptions determined on a case-by-case basis.
- This policy does not affect Elderly/Disabled families.

SDHC Achievement Academy

SDHC guides Work-Able families to become more financially self-reliant through enrollment at the SDHC Achievement Academy, a state-of-the-art learning and resource center and computer lab with programs that emphasize career planning, job skills and personal financial education—at no cost to HCV participants and public housing residents.

Participants are urged to enroll in these classes, which will help guide and prepare them to enter the workforce.

SDHC Achievement Academy
1045 11th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92101

To find out more about the SDHC Achievement Academy, call (619) 578-7451 or email achievementacademy@sdhc.org.

