



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE

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THE LAST OF 102 EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER RESIDENTS NOW HAVE A HOME OF THEIR OWN THROUGH A FEDERAL PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION

San Diego, CA— John and Malia Mason now have a new home after a four- month stay at San Diego’s emergency winter shelter for adults and a year and a half living on the streets—they are the last of 102 former winter shelter residents who qualified under a federal housing program administered by the San Diego Housing Commission.

“What the Housing Commission has done is brought us a lot of hope,” said John, after spending his first night at the downtown Peachtree Inn. “I’ve already applied for work at several fast-food restaurants. And now that we have computer access here where we live, I’ll be able to submit online applications to places like Home Depot and WalMart,” he added.

Married for three years, the Mason’s will receive up to 12 months of housing assistance through the federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), which provides assistance to persons who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless due to the economic downturn. All the HPRP funding has now been allocated.

“In providing this opportunity we have created a bridge,” remarked Richard C. Gentry, President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Housing Commission. “Those who want to benefit must now cross that bridge, take the reins and guide their future.”

The Housing Commission assisted each individual in their housing search. The majority (62) found housing in downtown San Diego at single room occupancy hotels, followed by 33 who are living in private residences and seven who are now residing at an apartment complex owned by the Housing Commission.

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Through the HPRP initiative:

- 102 former shelter residents have now been placed in housing.
- Shelter residents were screened for qualification by a local non-profit and referred to the Housing Commission for a determination of final eligibility;
- After being approved, each client was assisted by the Housing Commission in their successful search for housing.

Residence	Individuals	Men	Women	Couples
Private Landlords (1-bedroom)	33	10	7	8
The Metro (SRO)	5	4	1	0
Studio 15 (SRO)	20	11	1	4
Peachtree Inn (SRO)	21	13	4	2
Island Village (SRO)	6	4	0	1
500 West (SRO)	10	5	1	2
Belden Apartments (1-bedroom)	7	1	0	3
Total	102	48	14	20 (40 Individuals)

The private landlord residences are located in the following San Diego zip codes: 92101, 92103, 92104, 92105, 92110, 92113, 92114, 92115, 92116, and 92173.

All of the Single Room Occupancy Hotels are located in the 92101 zip code downtown.

The Belden Apartments are owned and managed by the Housing Commission and located in the 92111 zip code.

(MORE)

Initial Screening & Referral to SDHC	Approved by SDHC	Placed in Housing by SDHC
110 Individuals (100 Households)	102 Individuals (82 Households)	102 Individuals (82 Households)

- Participants will receive up to 12 months of HPRP housing assistance;
- HPRP is a three-year, \$5.7 million federal program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered by the Housing Commission on behalf of the City of San Diego;
- Launched in 2009, the cutting-edge program provides housing assistance to eligible individuals and families through direct payments to landlords for security deposits, back rent, and rent subsidies;
- On June 29, 2010, the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego directed the San Diego Housing Commission to administer the City’s emergency winter shelter program for the homeless.

Many organizations and agencies partnered with the Housing Commission to make the winter shelter and HPRP programs a success:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpha Project of San Diego • Centre City Development Corporation • City of San Diego • County of San Diego Mental Health Services • Family Health Centers of San Diego • San Diego Housing Commission’s Special Housing Initiatives Department | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Diego Police Department • Townspeople • Veterans Administration • Vietnam Veterans of San Diego • U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development |
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BACKGROUND

City’s Winter Shelter Program

On June 29, 2010, the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego directed the San Diego Housing Commission to manage the City’s emergency winter shelter program for homeless adults and military veterans.

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The cost for the winter shelter program this year was:

- Adult Shelter \$451,902*
- Veterans Shelter \$283,500

* Includes \$97,087 raised by Alpha Project for the adult shelter.

Prior to the adult shelter opening, the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) provided \$30,000 in funding to make necessary building repairs, including disabled access improvements.

The winter shelter for up to 200 adults was located in a vacant building in Barrio Logan and opened on December 2, 2010. Day-to-day operations for the adult shelter were handled by Alpha Project for the Homeless. The adult shelter closed on Monday, April 4, 2011.

A second shelter for up to 150 military veterans was placed on Navy property in the Midway District and opened on December 8, 2010. Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) operated the Midway facility. The Veterans Shelter closed on Thursday, April 7, 2011.

For over a decade, the City has conducted a winter shelter program that provides homeless persons protection from inclement weather, and also makes available services to address permanent housing needs, mental health screening, drug and alcohol treatment, and job counseling.

HPRP Contract Amended for the Winter Shelter Program

HPRP is a three-year, \$5.7 million federal program administered by the Housing Commission on behalf of the City of San Diego. The grant funding was received under the federal American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Launched in 2009, the cutting-edge program provides temporary housing assistance to eligible individuals and families through direct payments to landlords for security deposits, back rent, and rent subsidies. Individuals, whose annual incomes do not exceed 50% of the San Diego Area Median Income (AMI) or \$27,500, can receive up to 12 months of assistance. The AMI is set annually by HUD.

Under the program, the participant pays 30% of their monthly income in rent. If there is no income, the subsidy is based on the size of the household.

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In September of 2009, the Housing Commission contracted with a local nonprofit, to provide case management and coordinate services under the HPRP program, and to act as a “Point of Entry” for potential program participants.

On October 19, 2010, the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego approved an amendment to the contract expanding the non-profit’s role to include homeless persons living in the winter shelter.

Once screened and approved by the Housing Commission for housing assistance, the non-profit provides intensive case management for program participants to ensure a stable living arrangement continues after the limited housing assistance concludes.

For more information, visit the San Diego Housing Commission web site at www.sdhc.org

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Established in 1979, the San Diego Housing Commission provides a variety of award-winning affordable housing programs and services that stimulate the local economy, revitalize neighborhoods, and help improve the lives of more than 125,000 San Diegans annually.