



SAN DIEGO  
HOUSING  
COMMISSION

**News Release**

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## **WITH 15 DAYS TO GO, 400 HUNDRED VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE 9TH PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT – DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO**

*First-time effort to add homeless San Diegans to a database for housing will be a new service at  
The 9<sup>th</sup> Project Homeless Connect*

**SAN DIEGO, CA**—With only 15 days to go before [The 9th Project Homeless Connect](#) – Downtown San Diego, 400 hundreds volunteers are needed for the January 28th one-day resource fair to assist homeless San Diegans.

“This is our call to action – we will need at least 400 volunteers and 75 service providers to meet the needs of homeless San Diegans,” San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) President & CEO Richard C. Gentry said in an announcement at the St. Vincent de Paul Village kitchen in Downtown San Diego. ([Watch the news conference.](#))

Project Homeless Connect will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on January 28, 2015, in Golden Hall at the San Diego Community Concourse.

Volunteers will staff the registration table, escort clients to different stations and perform additional tasks. Register online at [www.sdhc.org](http://www.sdhc.org)

Service providers are also crucial to the success of Project Homeless Connect.

“A new service at Project Homeless Connect this year is that for the first time, homeless San Diegans at Project Homeless Connect will have the opportunity to add their names to a database list for housing,” said Sgt. Teresa Clark of the San Diego Police Department Homeless Outreach Team.

The information they provide will be entered into the Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement System that is being utilized by all homeless service providers in Downtown San Diego. This system allows homeless housing providers to instantly share information with each other.

The information will be used to screen homeless individuals, track background information, and direct homeless San Diegans to the most appropriate housing options based on who is most in need, such as homeless San Diegans who have been on the street the longest and the most vulnerable homeless San Diegans, based on their physical or mental health needs.

Many additional service providers are still needed, including employment agencies, additional barbers, hair stylists, dentists and dental hygienists, nurses and student nurses, substance abuse recovery services and legal services for referrals.

Services to be provided at Project Homeless Connect include:

- Flu shots and medical screenings
- Identification cards from the state Department of Motor Vehicles
- Housing and employment counseling
- A hot meal, salad, and bread
- Water, coffee and desserts
- Haircuts
- Dental exams

Father Joe's Villages will be making hot meals. "We plan to send over enough for 1,000 homeless San Diegans," said Diane Stumph, Father Joe's Villages President & CEO.

The public also is being asked to donate clothing – especially men's clothing – and coats. New socks and blankets are also needed.

Donors may drop off their goods the day before the event, between 8 a.m. and 4.p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, at Golden Hall.

For more information about how to volunteer at Project Homeless Connect, donate clothing or provide services, visit the San Diego Housing Commission's website at [www.sdhc.org](http://www.sdhc.org)

SDHC is lead organizer for The 9th Project Homeless Connect. Major partners are The City of San Diego, St. Vincent de Paul Village, Family Health Centers of San Diego and the Interfaith Shelter Network.

### **Background:**

The [8th Project Homeless Connect](#) was held on December 4, 2013 in Golden Hall. According to a survey of homeless participants:

- 61.1 percent of those served were men, and 36.3 percent were women;
- 11.6 percent were families with children;
- 85.6 percent were unemployed;
- 15.3 percent were military veterans;
- 53.5 percent had a medical condition or disability; and
- 56.9 percent relied on clinics for health care, while 14.3 percent do not go anywhere for health care treatment.

The report also stated that 38.8 percent were living on the streets, 18.4 percent lived at an emergency shelter, 10 percent lived with family or friends, and 9.3 percent resided in transitional housing. The remainder lived in a hotel or motel or other temporary housing.

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