



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

News Release

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO'S EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER TENTS CLOSE TODAY – MORE THAN 1,000 HOMELESS SAN DIEGANS SERVED DURING THIS PAST WINTER SEASON

102 shelter residents today moved into City's new interim housing program; 350-bed interim housing permanent facility will serve close to three times as many homeless individuals as the tents

SAN DIEGO, CA—The City of San Diego's two emergency winter shelter tents for Single Adults and Veterans served a total of 1,107 men and women during the first four of the five months of operation, with 163 homeless individuals receiving assistance to move into more stable housing, based on preliminary data.

Meanwhile, the City's new 350-bed, year-round interim housing program, operated by St. Vincent de Paul Village (St. Vincent) at the Paul Mirabile Center located at St. Vincent's Downtown San Diego campus, is being phased in today. The interim housing program will replace the City's emergency winter shelter tents.

The interim housing beds available today were filled by 102 winter shelter residents: 49 referred from the operator of the City's Single Adult shelter, Alpha Project for the Homeless (Alpha Project), and 53 referred from the operator of the Veterans shelter, Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD).

The 350-bed interim housing facility will be in full operation on July 1, 2015.

The April 1 closing date today was scheduled when the shelters went into operation on November 1, 2014, action that was approved by the San Diego City Council on October 7, 2014.

Also on October 7, 2014, the San Diego City Council directed the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) to conduct a programmatic study to identify potential locations for a permanent indoor shelter to be completed and presented to the City Council prior to April 1, 2015.

This effort was directed by Mayor Kevin Faulconer, who played a key leadership role in finding a year-round interim housing solution to replace the temporary tents, which included identifying additional funding sources.

Since 1986, the City's tents have been open each winter from November to April, except when they remained in continuous operation for 19 months from November 23, 2012, to July 1, 2014.

Homeless individuals exiting the City's Single Adult shelter today will receive help with housing placement because their information has already been gathered in a coordinated intake system developed by local homeless service providers last year.

For the first time in the nearly 30 years that the City has provided temporary winter shelter tents, referrals from homeless service providers identified the most vulnerable homeless men and women who were in need of a bed at the City's Single Adult shelter compared to a lottery system used in previous years.

This referral system will also be used by St. Vincent for the year-round interim housing program at the Paul Mirabile Center.

Under the San Diego City Council's unanimous approval on March 24 of an SDHC recommendation, the St. Vincent facility will assist up to 350 individuals at a time and will remain open year-round:

- Minimum 350 beds for homeless men and women (ages 18 and up), equal to the number of beds currently provided by the City's Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter and Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter;
- Up to 40 percent of beds are to be set aside for homeless Veterans;
- Supportive services to stabilize lives;
- Three meals a day;
- 24-hour residential and security services;
- 45-day lengths of stay for residents, to reinforce the importance of moving out of homelessness and into more permanent housing; and
- Participation in the Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement system for bed referrals, utilized by homeless service providers in Downtown San Diego.

Partnering with St. Vincent to deliver supportive services will be VVSD (San Diego's largest provider of homeless Veterans' programs) and People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), operator of the Connections Housing Downtown one-stop center for homeless San Diegans.

City's Winter Shelter Tents Additional Preliminary Data:

From November 1, 2014 through February 28, 2015:

- The City's Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter served 698 men and women; the Veterans shelter served 409.
- 100 shelter residents: 50 individuals from each of the two shelters exited to permanent housing.
- 63 shelter residents exited to a transitional housing program (53 from the Single Adult shelter, 10 from the Veterans shelter);
- At the Single Adult shelter, 223 homeless men and women were matched with a housing navigator to help them become ready for permanent and longer-term housing. (Figures for the Veterans shelter are not yet available.);
- At the Single Adult shelter, there were 241 men and women who maintained or increased their income.

- At the Veterans shelter, there were 218 men and women who maintained or increased their income.

The City's Single Adult and Veteran Emergency Winter Shelters generally limited the lengths of stay to 45 days to reinforce the importance of moving out of homelessness and into more permanent housing.

SDHC administered the contracts for the City's Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter, at 16th Street and Newton Avenue in Barrio Logan, and the Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter, at 2801 Sports Arena Boulevard in the Midway District, under a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of San Diego, which originated in 2010.

Alpha Project operated the 200-bed Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter and VVSD operated the 150-bed Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter.

For more background information about the City's emergency winter shelter tents read the [November 1, 2014](#), and [March 13, 2015](#), news releases, or visit SDHC website at www.sdhc.org.

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