



SAN DIEGO  
HOUSING  
COMMISSION

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# NEWS RELEASE

April 7, 2011

## 102 HOMELESS RESIDENTS OF CITY’S EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM FIND HOMES— REPORT CITES COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT LED BY SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION

**San Diego, CA**— Three days after the closure of the City’s adult winter shelter, 102 of its former residents now have a new place to call home or are in the process of finding a home as a result of an innovative federal program administered by the San Diego Housing Commission.

“To have these types of positive outcomes, where housing is provided to persons battling homelessness is particularly satisfying,” remarked Richard C. Gentry, President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Housing Commission.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) program is now providing up to 12 months of housing assistance to persons who had been residing at the adult winter shelter located in Barrio Logan.

A report describing the comprehensive effort, “Homeless Residents Find Homes” was released today by the Housing Commission.

Adult winter shelter residents interested in accessing the program were screened at the shelter for the program by Townspeople, a local non-profit hired by the Housing Commission.

After final evaluation by the Housing Commission, housing assistance was approved for:

- 102 winter shelter residents (66 who have already found housing)

<b>Screened by Townspeople</b>	<b>Approved by SDHC</b>	<b>Placed in Housing</b>	<b>Under Review by SDHC</b>
110 Individuals (100 Households)	102 Individuals (92 Households)	66 Individuals (59 Households)	4 Individuals (4 Households)

The housing assistance includes direct payments to landlords for security deposits and payment of a portion of the monthly rent. After approval, participants had 30 days to contact landlords and arrange for housing within the City of San Diego.

Because individuals assisted under this effort sometimes have financial and credit histories that can be problematic, finding landlords to participate is one of the most critical components of the program.

“We saw this as the perfect opportunity to be part of a solution for people who are in transition,” said Anna Scott, Project Manager for the Affirmed Housing Group, the developer of Studio 15.

Participants selected the following housing:

- 20 Renting from Private Landlords
- 18 Renting at Studio 15, a Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Hotel
- 11 Renting at Peachtree Inn (SRO)
- 10 Renting at 500 West (SRO)
- The remainder have found units at The Metro (SRO), Island Village (SRO), Trolley Court (SRO), and Belden (1-bedroom units owned and operated by the Housing Commission for elderly and disabled tenants).

Arriving at the adult shelter in early December, Amanda and Will soon heard about the HPRP program. They attended an orientation session in early January, were approved shortly thereafter, and moved into Studio 15 on March 3, 2011. “We have been on the streets, off and on, for about seven years,” said Will. “It is truly a blessing that through this program we were able get into an apartment.”

During its four months of operations, more than 700 homeless men and women were provided with shelter and services at the adult winter shelter. Some residents stayed only days, while others remained for the full duration.

All of the HPRP housing assistance funding for the winter shelter program has now been allocated.

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

- 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
- San Diego Police Department
- Townspeople
- Veterans Administration
- Vietnam Veterans of San Diego
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

## **BACKGROUND**

### **City's Winter Shelter Program**

In June 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.

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.

In September of 2009, the Housing Commission contracted with Townspeople, 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 role of Townspeople to include homeless persons living in the winter shelter.

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

To obtain a copy of the Report, please visit the San Diego Housing Commission Web site at [www.sdhc.org](http://www.sdhc.org).

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***Established in 1979, the San Diego Housing Commission provides a variety of award-winning affordable housing programs that stimulate the local economy, revitalize neighborhoods, and help improve the lives of nearly 76,000 San Diegans annually.***