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**HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR 75 DOWNTOWN HOMELESS
INDIVIDUALS IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH
SPECIAL FEDERAL HOUSING VOUCHERS FOR NON-PROFITS BY
THE SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION**

San Diego, CA—Three non-profit organizations assisting the downtown homeless population with supportive services will be able to provide at least 75 individuals with a place to call home. The effort is a result of rental assistance housing vouchers that have been awarded by the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC).

The 75 Sponsor-Based Housing Vouchers, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), are the latest in a series of vouchers released by SDHC in partnerships with community non-profit organizations. To date, SDHC has awarded 225 vouchers to agencies providing supportive services to San Diego's homeless.

“Connecting housing to services is a proven way to help homeless individuals rebuild their lives, especially when working with the most vulnerable individuals living on our streets,” said SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry.

Supportive housing units provide a variety of services to assist formerly homeless people, with substance-abuse counseling, life skills instruction and mental-health assessments to improve their self-sufficiency.

The three proposals accepted by SDHC, and the number of Sponsor-Based Vouchers awarded, are as follows:

- **Father Joe's Villages (20 vouchers)** – Father Joe's Villages is a social-services provider for homeless individuals and families, with 892 nightly interim and transitional housing beds and one million meals served annually.

It will use the federal housing vouchers to subsidize permanent, supportive housing units it directly owns and operates. It plans to target homeless individuals living at or below 50 percent of San Diego Area Median Income (AMI), with four vouchers specifically for chronically homeless individuals. Supportive services will be provided through the St. Vincent de Paul's Tenant Services Team, which includes coordinators to help tenants set individual goals and provide referrals.

- **Mental Health Systems, Inc. (MHS, 20 vouchers)** – MHS operates outpatient mental health clinics in San Diego.

It will use the federal housing vouchers to assist homeless adults who have difficulty maintaining stable housing due to serious mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders. The housing vouchers will be used to expand its Center Star ACT and Serial Inebriate

programs, which promote wellness and recovery to help clients achieve stability. The vouchers will provide assistance at supportive units already housing clients of these programs. The organization will partner with San Diego County Behavioral Health Services for services and employment support.

- PATH (People Assisting the Homeless, 35 vouchers) – PATH is an organization focused on rapid re-housing, strategic outreach, permanent supportive housing development and services for the most vulnerable homeless populations in Southern California. It is co-developer and lead service provider of the City of San Diego-sponsored Connections Housing Downtown, a service and residential community that features 223 housing units, a health center and numerous social services located in one building. SDHC has provided a \$2 million loan toward the \$34.5 million development and 89 project-based federal housing vouchers.

PATH will use the federal housing vouchers to complement services provided at Connections Housing Downtown to reduce street homelessness in downtown neighborhoods by helping people who are living on the streets move into permanent housing

PATH's goal is to provide in-house case management to help residents stabilize and achieve higher levels of self-sufficiency.

SDHC was one of the first housing agencies in the nation to provide Sponsor-Based Housing Vouchers because of its HUD designation as one of 35 Moving to Work (MTW) agencies. The designation allows SDHC to be flexible in creating innovative programs that address San Diego's housing needs.

According to the 2012 Point in Time Count conducted by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, there were 6,379 homeless individuals in the City of San Diego, nearly half of which were counted in downtown San Diego.

This latest SDHC initiative is directed to make available permanent housing and services to individuals and families living in downtown San Diego.

Read more about SDHC programs by visiting the website at www.sdhc.org

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