



SAN DIEGO  
HOUSING  
COMMISSION

## News Release

November 1, 2014

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### **CITY'S SINGLE ADULT EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER OPENS UTILIZING ENHANCED REFERRAL SYSTEM TO SCREEN AND SERVE THE MOST VULNERABLE HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS; NIGHTLY LOTTERY DISCONTINUED**

*Shelter opens November 1, 2014 - April 1, 2015 at 1601 Newton Avenue, Barrio Logan*

**SAN DIEGO, CA**—For the first time, referrals from homeless service providers will identify the most vulnerable homeless men and women who are in need of a bed at the City of San Diego's Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter (Shelter) when it opens at 8 a.m. Saturday, November 1.

The new referral system replaces the nightly lottery. The most vulnerable individuals will be served first and will be provided resources to help move them into more permanent housing.

Additional new procedures are being implemented this year to:

- Enhance supportive services;
- Reduce shelter stays; and
- Keep the surrounding neighborhood in Barrio Logan clean and safe while the shelter is in operation.

The referrals are part of the new Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) system being utilized by all homeless service providers in Downtown San Diego. Providers now have the ability to instantly share information to screen homeless individuals, track background information and direct them to the most appropriate housing options.

Use of referrals instead of the nightly lottery will also reduce queuing and loitering in the streets outside the Shelter.

Enhanced supportive services include: health and medical services; mental health services; drug and alcohol recovery support; employment and vocational assistance; and life skills training. Case management will be provided by Catholic Charities.

To reinforce the importance of moving out of homelessness and into more permanent housing, the shelter also will limit the length of stays to 45 days.

The shelter can accommodate up to 200 men and women at a time. Day-to-day operations are handled by Alpha Project for the Homeless (Alpha Project), under a contract that the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) administers on behalf of the City of San Diego.

Alpha Project, the San Diego Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and other homeless service providers have conducted street outreach in the weeks leading up to the Shelter opening to advise homeless individuals of the new procedures and to begin screening those interested in staying at the shelter.

CAHP utilizes data gathered through a [Homeless Management Information System](#) (HMIS). For the first time, homeless service providers will use the same software to share and track information about homeless individuals, such as demographics and housing options.

Through CAHP homeless men and women will be assigned a "housing navigator." This person will be responsible for helping them become ready for longer-term housing, such as making sure they have the documents they need to apply for housing.

### **Background Operations & Funding:**

San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer's Fiscal Year 2015 (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015) budget, approved by the City Council on June 9, 2014 included \$400,000 in one-time funding for a system-wide homeless coordinated assessment and housing placement program.

The Mayor's reallocation of these City General Funds toward homelessness solutions and outcome-focused services endorsed the recommendations made by City Council President Gloria on February 6, 2014, while Gloria served as Interim Mayor.

This year's shelter operations will cost \$502,700:

- City General Fund \$457,000; and
- SDHC will contribute an additional \$45,700.

The enhanced supportive services will be provided at an additional cost of \$95,000 of City General Funds.

The San Diego City Council, sitting as the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego, on October 7, 2014, approved the operation of the [Shelter](#) at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Newton Avenue in Barrio Logan from November 1, 2014, through April 1, 2015.

The City Council also directed SDHC to conduct three community meetings in Barrio Logan to address neighborhood issues concerning the upcoming operation of the shelter at 16th Street and Newton Avenue.

SDHC is working with the HOT Team and Alpha Project to conduct enhanced patrols in the area surrounding the shelter to deter public camping between the shelter and Chicano Park, including areas around Interstate 5 and its overpass.

SDHC was also directed to work with City staff to conduct a study of replacement locations for a permanent indoor homeless shelter. The 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Newton Avenue location, however, will not be considered as a site for the shelter in 2015-16.

### **City's Adult Emergency Winter Shelter Programs & SDHC Contract Administrator:**

SDHC has administered the contracts for the City's Homeless Shelters and Services Programs since July 1, 2010.

The City's Homeless Shelters and Services Programs have historically included two temporary structures to provide shelter for San Diego's homeless population during the winter months.

In addition to a warm, clean place to stay, the 200-bed Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter and the 150-bed Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter also provide meals, medical services and additional assistance to help homeless San Diegans become more self-reliant.

Under a series of budgeting actions by the former San Diego Mayor and City Council, both the Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter and the Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter remained open from November 23, 2012, through July 1, 2014.

The Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter and the Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter are returning to their traditional winter operations, under a Memorandum of Understanding approved by the SDHC Board of Commissioners on [May 9, 2014](#), and the San Diego City Council on [June 17, 2014](#).

The City has implemented an emergency winter shelter program for adults every winter since 1987 to assist homeless individuals during the year's coldest and wettest months.

Read [SDHC's Annual Report](#) for more information about its homelessness programs, pages 52-148, or visit [www.sdhc.org](http://www.sdhc.org).

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