



The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) created the Path to Success initiative to encourage Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance families to become more financially self-reliant.

Path to Success modified the method used to determine the monthly rent payment amounts for families that receive rental assistance from SDHC and public housing residents. The new rent methodology was designed to motivate families to increase earnings.

In addition, Path to Success set minimum monthly rent payment amounts for participants who are identified as able to work (Work-Able). There is no minimum monthly rent payment amount for Elderly/Disabled families.

Effective July 1, 2024, Elderly/Disabled families are households in which all adult family members are 62 or older, disabled, or a full-time student ages 18 to 23.

There will be no change to households currently established as “elderly”, with members aged 55 to 61 years old. These families will keep the elderly/disabled designation and be grandfathered into the new policy.

Path to Success is one of SDHC’s innovative “Moving to Work” (MTW) initiatives and was implemented in Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014).

SDHC is one of only 39 original MTW agencies out of approximately 3,200 public housing authorities nationwide. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the addition of 87 MTW agencies in 2021 and 2022.



The SDHC Achievement Academy helps Work-Able families become more financially self-reliant

Work-Able Families

- Effective July 1, 2024, Work-Able families are households with at least one adult who is under 62, not disabled, and not a full-time student ages 18-23.
- In Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023), SDHC’s Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance program included 6,623 Work-Able households.
- The average annual earned income of all Work-Able families in Fiscal Year 2023 was \$34,642.





Rent Payment Amounts

- Path to Success set minimum monthly rent payment amounts for Work-Able households.
- Beginning on January 1, 2020, the minimum monthly rent payment amounts for Work-Able households increased to reflect increases in California’s minimum wage.

Work-Able Adults in the Household	Years 1-2 (July 1, 2013)	Years 3-7 (July 1, 2015)	Years 8+ (Jan. 1, 2020)
1	\$200	\$300	\$400
2+	\$350	\$500	\$650

- Work-Able families pay either the minimum monthly rent payment amount or the rent payment amount based on the family’s annual income, whichever is greater.
- Adjusted annual income is separated into income ranges. The lower edge of the range is used to calculate the family’s rent payment.
 - For example, the monthly rent payment amount for any family with adjusted annual income between \$25,000 and \$29,999 will be calculated using \$25,000 as their income.
 - This allows Work-Able families to increase their income without being penalized.

SDHC Achievement Academy

- SDHC guides Work-Able families to become more financially self-reliant through enrollment at the SDHC Achievement Academy.
- The SDHC Achievement Academy is a learning and resource center with programs that emphasize career planning, job skills, job placement and personal financial education, such as budgeting and credit. Programs are available at no cost for individuals and families with low income in the City of San Diego.
- Family Self-Sufficiency is a core program, through which participants are able to earn up to \$10,000 in an interest-bearing escrow account based upon their educational and employment-related accomplishments.
- Since 2010, the SDHC Achievement Academy has served more than 5,600 individuals, including placing more than 1,100 in jobs.
- For more information about the SDHC Achievement Academy: call (619) 578-7451 or email achievementacademy@sdhc.org

Hardship Policy

- Families may apply for a temporary hardship exemption from the minimum monthly rent payment amounts.
- If approved, households MUST participate in SDHC Achievement Academy “work readiness” programs for the duration of the hardship period.
- Information on hardship policies is located throughout the SDHC Administrative Plan, beginning on page 79, via the following link: <https://www.sdhc.org/about-us/plans-policies/section-8-administrative-plan/>
All requests for minimum rent hardship exceptions are required to be in writing. The requests will be reviewed by the Hardship Review Committee and analyzed on a case-by-case basis.