



February 7, 2019

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

With the start of the San Diego Housing Commission's (SDHC) 40th anniversary year in 2019, I am pleased to share with you that SDHC's homelessness action plan, HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, has created more than 3,000 housing opportunities within just 18 months for San Diegans experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

The current phase of HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO launched on July 1, 2017, with the goal of creating at least 3,000 housing opportunities over three fiscal years, so we have achieved this milestone well ahead of schedule.

HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO is an effective, diverse funding and housing strategy that is rooted in the national "Housing First" model of addressing homelessness – to provide housing as quickly as possible, with supportive services as needed.

This homelessness action plan directs \$79.7 million in federal, City of San Diego, and SDHC resources over three fiscal years (2018-2020) toward programs to create permanent housing opportunities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the City of San Diego.

This is a tremendous step forward in our partnership efforts to address homelessness, and I look forward to the additional housing opportunities that will be created in the next 18 months and beyond.

[Read the News Release](#)

The 13th Annual Project Homeless Connect Downtown San Diego

Providing access to a variety of services under one roof, Project Homeless Connect – Downtown San Diego served 905 San Diegans experiencing homelessness.



The 13th Project Homeless Connect
Resource fair in Downtown San Diego
January 30, 2019

City of San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer; Council President Georgette Gómez and Councilmember Chris Ward, the Honorary Co-Chairs of the event; Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry; Councilmembers Jennifer Campbell and Monica Montgomery; and SDHC Chair of the Board Stefanie Benvenuto visited the event, speaking with attendees, volunteers and service providers.

Services available at Project Homeless Connect included: flu shots; haircuts; pet care; identification cards from the California Department of Motor Vehicles; benefits assistance from the Social Security Administration; and legal aid. This year, for the first time, the San Diego County District Attorney's Office Victim Services Division also was on-site to provide information about domestic violence and human trafficking.

Staff from the programs of SDHC's HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO homelessness action plan were on hand to answer questions and provide important information about how to connect with the regional Coordinated Entry System, an essential step to identifying housing options.

This was the ninth consecutive time that SDHC served as the lead organizer of Project Homeless Connect. Major organizing partners included the City of San Diego, Interfaith Shelter Network, Family Health Centers of San Diego, and Father Joe's Villages.

[Read the News Release](#)

Annual Point-In-Time Count of San Diegans Experiencing Homelessness

In the early morning hours of January 25, volunteers conducted the annual Point-in-Time Count census of San Diegans experiencing homelessness, known locally as WeAllCount.



Point-in-Time Count
Annual census of homeless individuals
January 25, 2019

California State Senate President pro Tem Toni Atkins; California State Assemblymember Todd Gloria; San Diego County Supervisors Greg Cox and Nathan Fletcher; San Diego City Councilmembers Mark Kersey and Chris Ward; SDHC Chair of the Board Stefanie Benvenuto and Vice Chair Ryan Clumpner; and former SDHC Chair of the Board Gary Gramling were among the volunteers.

Coordinated by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, the Point-in-Time Count is essential to securing about \$20 million in Federal Continuum of Care funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for local homelessness programs, of which SDHC administers approximately \$4.9 million.

SDHC Hosts California State Treasurer's Affordable Housing Listening Tour

SDHC was pleased to be the second stop on California State Treasurer Fiona Ma's listening tour on affordable housing.



California State Treasurer Fiona Ma
Affordable Housing Listening Tour
January 17, 2019

I joined Treasurer Ma and Deputy Treasurer, Housing and Economic Development Jovan Agee to discuss affordable housing with the more than 60 members of the community who attended, including developers, nonprofit partners, and supporters of creating more affordable housing. SDHC Commissioner Johanna Puno Hester was among the attendees.

Participants provided comments and proposed actions to address the challenges of developing additional affordable housing.

I provided Treasurer Ma with copies of SDHC's reports: [Addressing the Housing Affordability Crisis: An Action Plan for San Diego](#); [Addressing The Housing Affordability Crisis: San Diego Housing Production Objectives 2018-2028](#); and [SDHC's Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report](#).

Free Tax Prep San Diego Initiative

California State Senate President pro Tem Toni Atkins; California State Assemblymember Todd Gloria; Global Director of Citi Community Development and Inclusive Finance Bob Annibale; 2-1-1 San Diego Executive Vice President William York; and I announced the collaborative Free Tax Prep San Diego initiative.



Free Tax Prep San Diego
Announcement
January 11, 2019

Free Tax Prep San Diego raises awareness about Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) for eligible working households and free tax preparation services.

Eligible families in the San Diego region will be able to add up to thousands of dollars to their income tax refund and receive help to prepare and file their taxes for free through Free Tax Prep San Diego.

To raise awareness among the households it serves, SDHC is reaching out to more than 9,000 low-income households in the City of San Diego that receive Federal rental assistance from SDHC or reside in SDHC-owned affordable rental housing units. In addition, free tax preparation services will be provided at three SDHC affordable rental housing properties.

Free Tax Prep San Diego is a collaboration between the San Diego City-County Reinvestment Task Force (RTF), the San Diego Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition led by the United Way of San Diego County, SDHC, and founding corporate partner Citi Community Development.

[Read the News Release](#)

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Gentry
President & Chief Executive Officer
San Diego Housing Commission

<p>View Previous Email Updates</p>	<p>Watch videos on SDHC's YouTube Channel</p>	<p>Read SDHC's 2018 Fiscal Year Annual Report</p>	<p>Read SDHC's HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO Report</p>	<p>Read SDHC's San Diego Housing Production Objectives Report</p>
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Established in 1979, the San Diego Housing Commission provides a variety of award-winning affordable housing programs and services that stimulate the local economy, revitalize neighborhoods, and impact the lives of low-income and homeless San Diegans.

San Diego Housing Commission

1122 Broadway, Suite 300, San Diego, CA 92101 www.sdhc.org