



April 22, 2021

Solutions for homelessness among military veterans were the focus of a roundtable discussion by video conference in which I was pleased to participate yesterday with members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

I discussed changes implemented in the City of San Diego to maximize the utilization of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. In March 2021, 99 percent of VASH vouchers SDHC administers were leased up at a rental housing unit, had been issued to a household that was searching for a home, or were committed to provide rental assistance at a specific housing unit as a Project-Based Housing Voucher, up from 89 percent in December 2019.



Richard C. Gentry SDHC President & CEO

In addition, I spoke about the help veterans experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic received through the San Diego initiative known as Operation Shelter to Home, as well as past accomplishments, such as the Housing Our Heroes initiative, which within 18 months in 2016 and 2017 helped secure homes for 1,000 veterans experiencing homelessness.

My thanks to Committee Chair Senator Jon Tester of Montana and Ranking Member Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas for inviting me to be a part of this conversation about helping to provide a path off the streets and out of shelters for the men and women who have served our country.

I invite you to read more below about additional recent San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) activities.



City of San Diego COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program News Conference April 5, 2021

Helping Households Affected by COVID-19

Close to 9,700 households in the City of San Diego have applied for financial help to pay past-due rent and utilities since the launch last month of the City of San Diego Housing Stability Assistance Program.

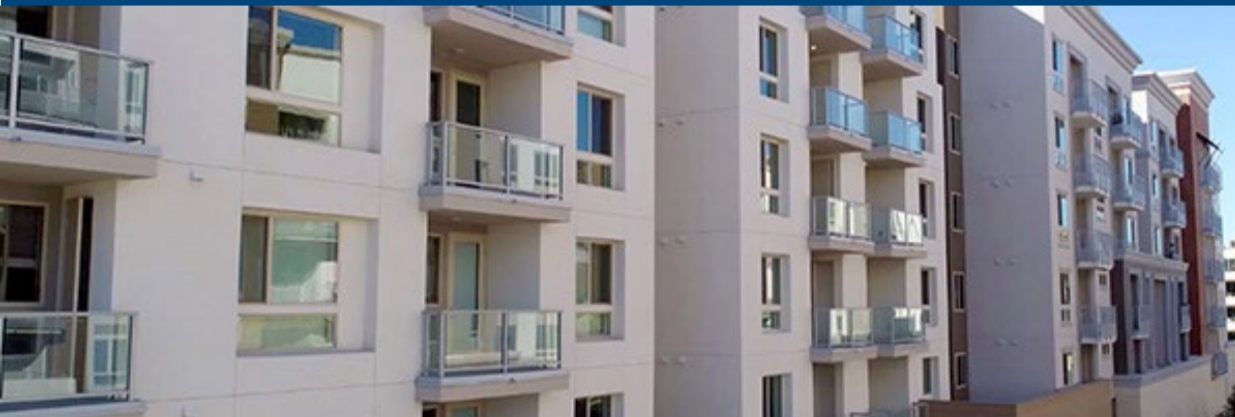
SDHC administers this program, which helps households with low income that experience financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To help raise awareness about this program, I joined U.S. Representative Juan Vargas, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, San Diego City Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera and San Diego Unified School District Board President Richard Barrera for an April 5, 2021, news conference to encourage families with children in the district to apply for the program.

Two weeks earlier, on March 22, 2021, I also joined Mayor Gloria, City Councilmember Raul Campillo, Unite HERE Local 30 President Brigette Browning and California Restaurant Association San Diego Chapter President Ben Clevenger to encourage workers affected by the pandemic to apply.

More than \$83 million is available through the COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program to help qualifying households with rent and utility payments.

[Learn More](#)



Siena and Stylus Apartments Virtual Grand Opening March 30, 2021

300 New Affordable Apartments – Grand Opening

A grand opening webinar celebrated the completion of more than 300 new affordable rental apartments for families and seniors at two developments in San Diego's Mission Valley community.

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, San Diego City Councilmember Raul Campillo and I were among the speakers, along with the developer, Chelsea Investment Corporation, and additional partners.

SDHC authorized the issuance of \$58.8 million in Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds to support the construction of the Stylus development, which provides 201 two- and three-bedroom apartments for families with income up to 60 percent of San Diego's Area Median Income (AMI). The San Diego City Council approved the bonds in its role as the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego.

The Siena development includes 103 one- and two-bedroom apartments with rents affordable to seniors with income up to 65 percent of AMI.

SDHC will monitor both developments to ensure their rents remain within the specified affordability levels and that residents qualify based on their income.

The apartments at both properties will remain affordable for 55 years.

[Read the News Release](#)



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We're About People

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.

