



December 24, 2021

With the sense of optimism and opportunity that accompanies the upcoming start of another new year, I look forward to continuing to build upon the San Diego Housing Commission's (SDHC) accomplishments of 2021.

Throughout the year, SDHC programs provided essential housing assistance for households with low income, at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness.

Our ongoing and emergency rental assistance programs provided hundreds of millions of dollars to help tens of thousands of San Diego households pay their rent.

More than 1,100 affordable rental housing units completed construction or rehabilitation this year, and an additional more than 2,800 have received approval and are pending completion.

Our homelessness action plan, HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, continued to create housing solutions. This plan has created close to 9,900 housing solutions in seven years for San Diegans at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness. HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO programs provide a continuum of housing solutions to address different needs, including homelessness prevention and diversion, rapid rehousing, landlord engagement and assistance, and permanent supportive housing.

SDHC also adopted a new Strategic Plan to guide the agency in the years to come, including a bold new vision—that everyone in the City of San Diego has a home they can afford.

This month, new collaborative initiatives have launched and ongoing programs have continued to have a positive impact on the lives of San Diegans experiencing housing challenges. I invite you to read more about these below.

During this holiday season and throughout the year, I am grateful for the leadership of Mayor Todd Gloria, the San Diego City Council and the SDHC Board of Commissioners. I also thank the many service providers, developers, landlords and community organizations that collaborate with us to help San Diego households with low income. And SDHC's outstanding staff continue to demonstrate their dedication, professionalism and productivity while working remotely due to the ongoing pandemic.

On behalf of SDHC, I wish each of you a safe, healthy and happy holiday season, and Happy New Year.



Richard C. Gentry SDHC President & CEO



Harm Reduction Homelessness Shelter News Conference December 15, 2021

New Homelessness Shelter for Individuals with Mental Health, Substance Abuse Issues

A new homelessness shelter opened this month with a focus on serving individuals with substance abuse and mental health issues who may find accessing other shelters challenging.

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and County of San Diego Board of Supervisors Chair Nathan Fletcher announced the opening of the Community Harm Reduction Team (C-HRT) shelter at a news conference, with City Councilmember Stephen Whitburn and SDHC Executive Vice President of Strategic Initiatives Lisa Jones among those in attendance. Alpha Project CEO Bob McElroy and County Behavioral Health Services Deputy Director Piedad Garcia spoke at the event.

On behalf of the City of San Diego, SDHC contracts with Alpha Project to operate the 44-bed shelter. Through a contract with the County of San Diego, Family Health Centers of San Diego will provide outreach, case management, substance use counselors, peer support, mental health clinicians and nurse practitioners through a contract with the County of San Diego.

[Read the Mayor's News Release](#)

50 New Housing Vouchers for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded 50 new Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers to SDHC to help veterans experiencing homelessness in the City of San Diego.

These vouchers will create more opportunities to help veterans move from the streets or shelters into permanent rental homes of their own with the supportive services they need.

SDHC helps VASH participants pay their rent. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs San Diego San Diego Healthcare System provides clinical health and case management services to VASH participants.

Including these 50 new vouchers, HUD has awarded 1,285 VASH vouchers to SDHC since 2008.

[Read the SDHC News Release](#)

More than 14,000 Households Helped by COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program

In just nine months since SDHC launched the application portal for the program, the COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program has helped more than 14,000 households with low income in the City of San Diego pay their rent and utilities.

SDHC has made payments totaling more than \$140.5 million to help these households, which experience financial hardship due to or during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All of the funding available to help San Diegans through this program has been fully obligated to assist households with low income, including applicants who have preliminary approval, subject to review and confirmation of their documentation.

SDHC continues to work with San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria's office on efforts to obtain additional funding and has formally requested additional funds from the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Eric, one of the renters this program helped, spoke with SDHC about his experience earlier this year. I invite you to watch the video of his compelling story.

[Watch the Video](#)

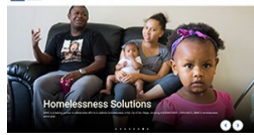
City of San Diego Eviction Prevention Program

San Diego renters with low income and facing eviction for nonpayment of rent can now receive help from the City of San Diego Eviction Prevention Program, which launched this month.

On behalf of the City of San Diego, SDHC contracts with Legal Aid Society of San Diego to operate the program, which includes emergency legal assistance for eligible tenants as well as education and public awareness activities, such as workshops and targeted training.

This program is funded by \$5 million in Coronavirus Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Community Development Block Grant funds awarded to the City of San Diego.

[Read the SDHC Flyer](#)



[SDHC Website](#)



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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.

