

September 27, 2022

As communities across the country experience challenges with affordable housing and homelessness, housing agencies and redevelopment organizations gathered in San Diego last week to learn from one another about different approaches and solutions for these difficult issues.



Jeff Davis
SDHC Interim President & CEO

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) was honored to serve as the host agency for the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) annual conference, with the theme "NAHRO Together: Advancing Our Communities."

I joined San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, SDHC Chair of the Board of Commissioners Eugene "Mitch" Mitchell, NAHRO President Patricia Wells and NAHRO Chief Executive Officer Mark Thiele at the opening session to welcome attendees to San Diego.

Sessions at the conference included two SDHC presentations: "Successful Strategies for Creating Affordable Housing in a Competitive, High-Cost Market," which also included Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation and People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) San Diego, and "Moving the Needle on Homelessness: The Power of Community," which included leaders from SDHC's Homeless Housing Innovations Division and the San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness.

SDHC also led a group of conference attendees on a tour of several affordable rental housing developments on which SDHC collaborated with developers and service providers. These properties included projects with permanent supportive housing for people who experienced homelessness.

NAHRO also recognized SDHC with three Awards of Merit.

And in the days leading up to the conference, we commemorated new initiatives to provide shelter for people experiencing homelessness and to expand homeownership opportunities for people of color in San Diego.

I invite you to read more about these activities below.



Wealth Opportunities Restored through Homeownership (WORTH) Grant
News Conference
September 21, 2022

SDHC Receives Wells Fargo Foundation Grant for Collaboration to Increase Homeownership Opportunities for People of Color

An expanded, collaborative effort to help more people of color in the San Diego region become homeowners was announced at a news conference about a \$7.5 million grant SDHC has been awarded from the Wells Fargo Foundation.

SDHC Board of Commissioners Chair Eugene "Mitch" Mitchell joined San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, City Council President Pro Tem Monica Montgomery Stepe, County of San Diego Supervisor Joel Anderson, Wells Fargo Chief Financial Officer Mike Santomassimo and representatives from several community organizations that make up the San Diego Homeownership Equity Collaborative for the news conference, held at the community center in San Diego's Sherman Heights neighborhood.

This initiative will help create 5,000 new homeowners of color in San Diego County by the end of 2025.

The San Diego City-County Reinvestment Task Force (RTF) will lead the implementation of the San Diego Homeownership Equity Collaborative's strategies throughout the San Diego region. SDHC and RTF are among the organizations on the San Diego Homeownership Equity Collaborative's Executive Committee.

The grant to SDHC comes from Wells Fargo's Wealth Opportunity Restored Through Homeownership (WORTH) initiative, a \$60 million national effort to address systemic barriers to homeownership for people of color. San Diego is one of eight markets across the U.S. to receive a WORTH grant.

[Read the News Release](#)



Rosecrans Shelter Announcement
News Conference
September 9, 2022

Up to 150 New Shelter Beds for People Experiencing Homelessness

Up to 150 new shelter beds are now available for people experiencing homelessness in the City of San Diego. This is the result of a collaboration among the City, the County of San Diego, SDHC, the Lucky Duck Foundation, and Alpha Project.

SDHC's Executive Vice President of Strategic Initiatives Lisa Jones joined San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, Chair of the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors Nathan Fletcher, City Councilmember Jennifer Campbell, City of San Diego Director of Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Hafsa Kaka, San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness CEO Tamera Kohler, Lucky Duck Foundation Executive Director Drew Moser and Alpha Project CEO Bob McElroy to announce the new shelter.

On behalf of the City, SDHC contracts with Alpha Project to operate the shelter, known as the Rosecrans Shelter. The shelter offers on-site behavioral health services and 24-hour intakes, seven days a week.

Shelter residents are also offered services such as mental health and addiction treatment assessments, communicable disease screenings, case management and housing navigation. Available services will also include meals, showers, restrooms, laundry, storage for their belongings, and connections to self-sufficiency benefits like CalWORKS, CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

The breadth of services the Rosecrans Shelter offers and the extensive collaboration among many organizations make this shelter, essential addition to serve some of the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness in the City of San Diego.

The shelter is on County-owned land. The Lucky Duck Foundation contributed the use of its bridge shelter structure and covered the cost to construct it on-site.



NAHRO Awards of Merit
Presentation Ceremony
September 21, 2022

National Awards of Merit Recognize SDHC Initiatives

SDHC programs to help homeowners who want to build accessory dwelling units, assist households with low income during the COVID-19 pandemic, and provide online data dashboards about affordable housing and homelessness received national recognition with NAHRO Awards of Merit.

I was honored to be with SDHC Chair of the Board Eugene "Mitch" Mitchell and SDHC Executive Vice Presidents Suket Dayal, Emily Jacobs, Lisa Jones and Azucena Valladolid to accept these awards at the onset of NAHRO's annual conference in San Diego.

The SDHC Awards of Merit winners this year are:

- Affordable Housing: SDHC Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Development Pilot Program** – SDHC built five ADUs in the available yard space of five single-family homes SDHC owns and rents as affordable housing in the City of San Diego. SDHC also detailed [key takeaways and lessons learned](#) from this process to provide important information to help San Diego homeowners interested in building ADUs on their properties.
- Community Revitalization: City of San Diego COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program** – SDHC operated and administered this [program](#), which helped pay rent and utilities for qualifying households with low income who experienced financial hardship due to or during the pandemic. SDHC made payments totaling more than \$218 million to help more than 18,300 eligible households. Assistance payments helped households remain in their homes and provided financial resources to landlords and utility providers. SDHC engaged in extensive, collaborative community outreach and successfully provided funds to households in need as other jurisdictions nationwide experienced challenges disbursing federal emergency rent relief funds.
- Administrative Innovation: Online Dashboards for Homelessness Programs and Affordable Housing** – SDHC created comprehensive, interactive online dashboards to provide the public and policymakers with important data about [affordable housing](#) and [homelessness](#) programs in the City of San Diego.

SDHC's ADU Development Pilot Program and the COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program are also under consideration for NAHRO Awards of Excellence, which will be announced at a later date.



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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 San Diegans with low income and/or experiencing homelessness.

