Housing Instability Prevention Program

The Housing Instability Prevention Program (HIPPP) helps pay rent and other housing-related expenses for families in the City of San Diego with low income, experiencing a housing crisis and at risk of homelessness. The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) operates HIPPP for the City of San Diego. HIPPP launched on September 8, 2022, with funding the San Diego City Council allocated specifically for the creation of this program.

How It Works

- Households that need assistance call (619) 578-7768, SDHC’s HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO hotline.
- SDHC provides enrolled households with $250, $500 or $750 per month toward their rent, depending on the household’s circumstances.
- HIPPP also provides case management and assists with housing-related expenses, such as past-due rent and past-due utilities, depending on the household’s need. These payments are made directly to the landlord or utility company.
- Enrolled households receive assistance for up to 24 months.

Eligibility Criteria

- Live in the City of San Diego
- Spending more than 40 percent of their gross income on housing in San Diego.
- After the rent subsidy begins, the household cannot spend more than 95 percent of income on rent.
- Experiencing a housing crisis, such as facing eviction, and at risk of homelessness.
- No alternative housing options.
- Lack the money and support network to resolve their housing crisis.
- Household income is at or below 80 percent of San Diego’s Area Median Income, currently $104,100 per year for a family of four.
- Assets such as bank accounts or retirement savings that total less than $2,000.
- Do NOT currently receive ongoing rental assistance from another program.
- Immigration status DOES NOT affect eligibility for this program.
- Priority Populations
  - Seniors aged 55 and older
  - People of any age with a disability
  - Families with a child aged 17 and younger
  - Transition-age youth between the ages of 18 and 24

Seniors Safe at Home

Announced on September 29, 2023, the Seniors Safe at Home program provides time-limited case management and a specified rental assistance amount per month for seniors aged 55 and older with low income, experiencing a housing crisis, and at risk of homelessness. This is a collaboration among SDHC, Serving Seniors and The Lucky Duck Foundation, which invested $500,000 in philanthropic funds for the program.

HIPP Enrolled Household Demographics

- 50% of households in which the head of household is age 55 or older
- 37% of households with at least one member with a disability

*Rent burden* refers to the percentage of household income spent on rent.

Seniors Safe at Home

- 68% of households enrolled since program inception
- 38% of average rent burden before subsidy is applied

*Rent burden* refers to the percentage of household income spent on rent.