

March 11, 2024

Putting people first and acting with innovation, compassion and expedience are qualities the team at the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) values and puts into practice daily. This was evident during the aftermath of the recent storm and flooding that displaced hundreds of households from their homes in the City of San Diego.

Through our efforts in collaboration with the City of San Diego, the County of San Diego and community partners, hundreds of families obtained short-term shelter during a time of great uncertainty and need.

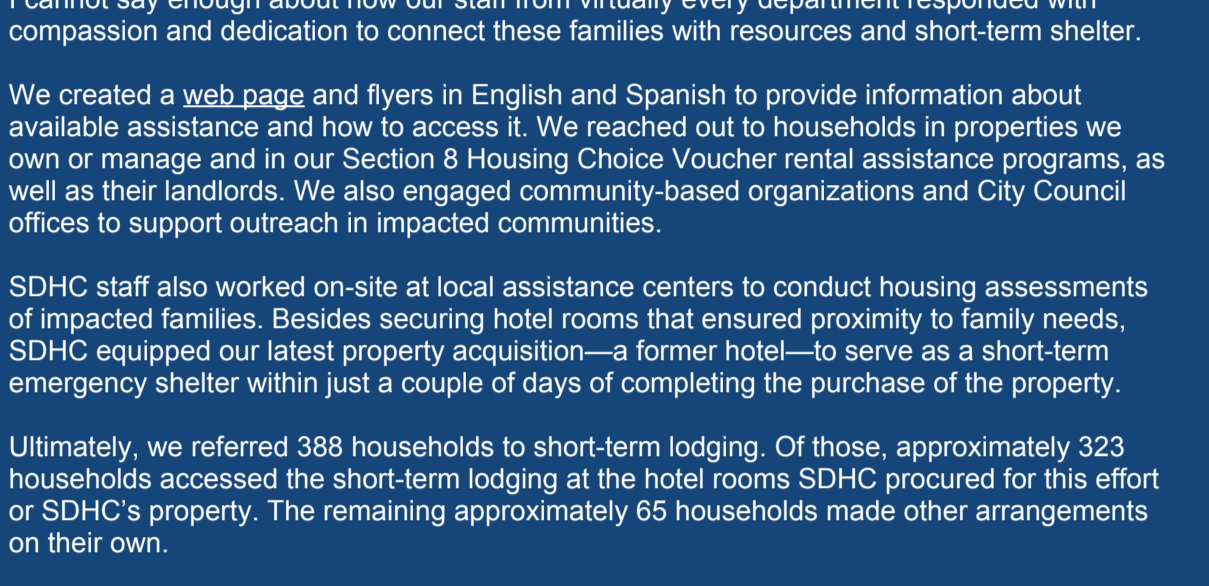
We are also ever mindful of the ongoing shortage of long-term housing solutions that are affordable for families with lower income or experiencing homelessness in the City of San Diego. Recently announced new funding from the State of California will support our proposed purchase of a hotel property to create more than 160 new affordable housing units. Groundbreakings for two additional collaborative developments with financing from SDHC also commemorated the start of construction that will produce more than 360 new affordable housing units.

We know that housing assistance for families struggling economically is most effective when many organizations serving the community work together in collaboration. To strengthen our partnerships with the many organizations doing impactful work throughout San Diego neighborhoods, we launched a Community-Based Organization Advisory Committee on Wednesday, March 6. This is part of our intentional effort to gather input from our community. This group will also create an environment to share challenges, priorities, and programs available to better connect with the customers we all serve, and it will help inform SDHC's strategic planning efforts this year. The advisory committee will meet quarterly. We look forward to enhancing our relationships with these organizations and our collective positive impact on San Diego households moving forward.

More details about some of our recent activities, as well as our rental assistance programs and observations of Black History Month and Women's History Month, are shared in this newsletter. Through our major program functions, we continue to work with community partners toward our vision that everyone in the City of San Diego will have a home they can afford and our support for diversity, equity and inclusion internally and externally.



Lisa Jones
SDHC President & CEO



SDHC Staff
City of San Diego Local Assistance Center
Storm Response and Recovery

SDHC Storm Response and Recovery

In the aftermath of a catastrophic storm and flooding on January 22, 2024, that upended the lives of hundreds of San Diego households, SDHC mobilized to provide essential assistance. I cannot say enough about how our staff from virtually every department responded with compassion and dedication to connect these families with resources and short-term shelter.

We created a [web page](#) and flyers in English and Spanish to provide information about available assistance and how to access it. We reached out to households in properties we own or manage and in our Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance programs, as well as their landlords. We also engaged community-based organizations and City Council offices to support outreach in impacted communities.

SDHC staff also worked on-site at local assistance centers to conduct housing assessments of impacted families. Besides securing hotel rooms that ensured proximity to family needs, SDHC equipped our latest property acquisition—a former hotel—to serve as a short-term emergency shelter within just a couple of days of completing the purchase of the property.

Ultimately, we referred 388 households to short-term lodging. Of those, approximately 323 households accessed the short-term lodging at the hotel rooms SDHC procured for this effort or SDHC's property. The remaining approximately 65 households made other arrangements on their own.

Our programs were intended to serve as the County of San Diego launched its assistance program for these households. The County has begun transitioning families from SDHC's programs to their program, and we anticipate that process will be completed soon.

I thank the County of San Diego for its efforts; San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and the San Diego City Council for their leadership and support of storm response and recovery for impacted families; and the staff and community organizations that responded to this crisis as well.



Extended-Stay Hotel Property
Potential SDHC Purchase
Homekey Grant Award

State Awards \$35 Million to SDHC

An additional infusion of State of California Homekey funds is coming to San Diego through a grant awarded to SDHC for collaborative efforts to create additional permanent affordable rental homes with supportive services for people experiencing homelessness.

The state announced the \$35 million Homekey grant on February 16. These funds will support SDHC's proposed purchase and rehabilitation of an extended-stay hotel property in San Diego's Mission Valley community. The property, which would be known as Presidio Palms, would provide 161 new affordable housing units with supportive services for people experiencing homelessness.

This is a collaboration among SDHC, the City of San Diego and the County of San Diego.

Including this proposed project, the state has now awarded more than \$105 million to SDHC for projects to create more than 600 permanent supportive housing units since Homekey began in 2020.

[Read the News Release](#)



Harrington Heights Groundbreaking
January 30, 2024

Development with 270 Affordable Housing Units Breaks Ground

When it is completed, the Harrington Heights development in downtown San Diego will be life-changing for 270 households with lower income who are struggling economically today, including 75 who currently are unhoused.

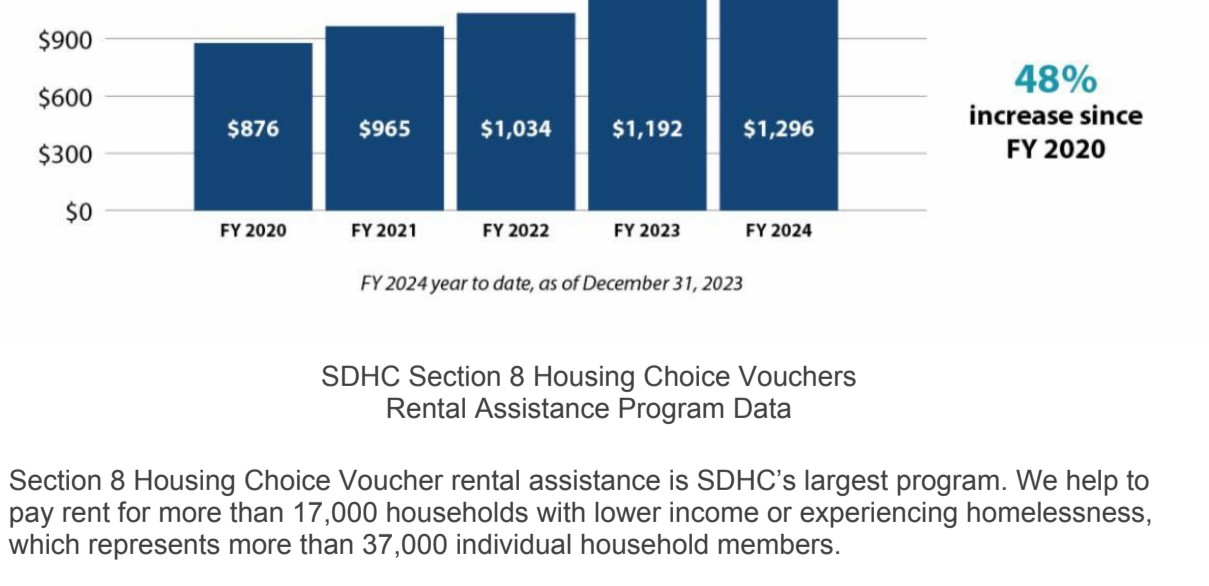
I had the privilege of participating in the groundbreaking for this affordable housing development along with San Diego City Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, the developer, Chelsea Investment Corporation, and additional development partners.

The rents for the units at this property will remain affordable for 55 years for households earning up to 50 percent of San Diego's Area Median Income. SDHC awarded 115 rental housing vouchers to help pay rent for 75 households experiencing homelessness, of which 10 are for veterans, and 40 households with lower income that are not currently experiencing homelessness.

We also awarded a loan and authorized Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds toward the financing for this development.

Harrington Heights is being built near San Diego City College, the City College Transit Station, served by the San Diego Trolley and multiple bus lines, and SDHC's main offices.

[Read the News Release](#)



SkyLINE Apartments Groundbreaking
February 15, 2024

Groundbreaking for 99 Affordable Apartments

A public-private partnership will transform a vacant portion of a transit station parking lot in the northern part of the City of San Diego into nearly 100 new affordable rental apartments for families with lower income.

The groundbreaking ceremony for SkyLINE Apartments celebrated the start of construction for the development at the transit station in the Rancho Bernardo community of San Diego.

SDHC Vice Chair of the Board Ryan Clumpner joined San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, San Diego City Councilmember Marni von Wilpert, San Diego City Councilmember and Metropolitan Transit System Board Chair Stephen Whitburn, County of San Diego Supervisor Joel Anderson, Affirmed Housing President Jimmy Silverwood and additional partners for the SkyLINE Apartments groundbreaking.

SDHC awarded 30 rental housing vouchers and authorized up to \$42.5 million in Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds to support the development.

[Read the News Release](#)

Black History Month

Women's History Month

Supporting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

At SDHC, we want to support the expansion of diversity, equity and inclusion every day.

February gave us the opportunity to highlight, celebrate and recognize the many achievements of Black Americans. We celebrated Black History Month by encouraging greater understanding and awareness of significant people and events throughout history. We encouraged our staff and the public to explore many resources full of valuable information available online, such as [BlackHistoryMonth.gov](#), the [History Channel](#), the [Smithsonian Institution](#), the [NAACP](#), the [San Diego History Center](#), the [City of San Diego Public Library](#), and [San Diego Museums](#).

For Women's History Month and International Women's Day in March, we are acknowledging and celebrating the achievements and contributions that women of all backgrounds have made throughout our history. We once again are encouraging staff and the public to explore resources available online to learn more about women's history, such as [WomensHistoryMonth.gov](#), the [National Women's History Museum](#), the [National Women's History Alliance](#), the [City of San Diego Public Library](#), the [UC San Diego Women's Center](#), and the [Women's Museum of California](#), located here in San Diego.

We also created unique backgrounds for SDHC to use on video conferences throughout these respective months to honor these monthly observances. We will be making additional backgrounds available for our staff for other heritage months throughout the year to support raising awareness about them.

Did you know?

17,243
Voucher Households

37,587
Individual Households

103.51%
Utilization Rate

Housing Voucher Average Monthly Rent Subsidy by Fiscal Year

SDHC Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers
Rental Assistance Program Data

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance is SDHC's largest program. We help to pay rent for more than 17,000 households with lower income or experiencing homelessness, which represents more than 37,000 individual household members.

Our voucher utilization rate is more than 103 percent. This means we are assisting a higher number of households than the baseline number, which is based on the funding we receive from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In the past five fiscal years, the average amount of the subsidy we provide rental assistance households through our housing voucher program has increased 48 percent to \$1,296 per month.

Each month, roughly 1,000 new applicants join our wait list for rental assistance, which consists of more than 57,000 households.

More federal funding for the housing voucher program is needed. Insufficient funding for this crucial program is an issue across the country. In its ["Worst Case Housing Needs 2023 Report to Congress,"](#) HUD estimated that only one in four households eligible for rental assistance nationwide actually receives it.

[SDHC Website](#)

[Previous SDHC Email Updates](#)

[SDHC Annual Reports](#)

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 lower income and/or experiencing homelessness.