

May 13, 2025

At the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC), our goal is for everyone in the City of San Diego to have a home they can afford.

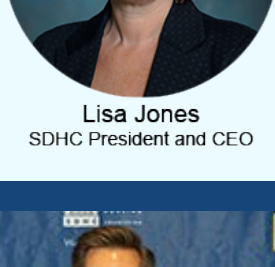
However, for many people experiencing homelessness in our community, shelter is a necessary step on the path from homelessness to housing. We need different types of shelter spaces to meet the unique needs of diverse population groups among our unhoused neighbors.

Creating additional affordable rental housing units is also essential to address the continuing housing shortage in our community.

Providing shelter to those who need it and creating affordable housing opportunities are two of the key elements of our blueprint for hope for our community. We are currently developing our new strategic plan for the next three to five years, which will put our blueprint for hope into action as we continue to work with the City of San Diego and our partners to address the ongoing housing and homelessness crisis.

The opening of two new sites that increase the capacity for homelessness shelter programs, the groundbreaking for a new affordable housing development, and initiatives to receive input in our strategic planning process are among recent activities we have undertaken to advance our efforts to continue to provide crucial housing assistance.

We are pleased to share details about these and additional activities in this newsletter and look forward to continuing to collaborate with a variety of partners in our community on similar efforts in the weeks, months and years to come.



Lisa Jones  
SDHC President and CEO



Rachel's Promise Center for Women and Children  
Media Event  
April 17, 2025

## Expanding Shelter for Unhoused Women and Children

In recent years, women have begun to make up a larger percentage of the population served by homelessness shelters that the City of San Diego funds and SDHC administers. That is why the opening of the new Rachel's Promise Center for Women and Children in downtown San Diego is so important.

Mayor Todd Gloria, City Councilmember Stephen Whitburn, SDHC Commissioner Stephen Cushman, Appaswamy "Vino" Pajanor, the CEO of Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego, and I participated in an event to commemorate the opening of the site for this program.

Women experiencing homelessness have started moving into the first 50 beds at the site. That is 10 more beds than were available at the previous site serving single adult women at a nearby building that is anticipated to close by June 30, 2025, due to redevelopment.

Additional building improvements in the coming months at the new site will expand the program's capacity to a total of 210 beds—approximately 109 for single women and 101 for women with children.

The owners of the new site, Dene Oliver and Jim McMillan, have worked closely with Catholic Charities to plan the site design and tenant improvements needed to expand the program's shelter capacity and create semi-congregate and non-congregate shelter space for women and children.

[Read SDHC's News Release](#)



Transition-Age Youth Shelter  
Media Event  
April 11, 2025

## Doubling the Beds for a Transition-Age Youth Shelter Program

For too many young people in our community, homelessness is their daily reality. At a time when they should be excited about adulthood and their future, they have no choice but to focus on each day, with the uncertainty and hardship of finding a place to sleep each night.

They need connection, support, and a chance to thrive as they pursue their aspirations. They need a path toward a home and a future. The Safe Shelter for Transition-Age Youth (Safe STAY) program can now provide that support to more youth experiencing homelessness because of a new site that doubles the program's bed capacity.

U.S. Representative Scott Peters, Mayor Todd Gloria, City Councilmembers Stephen Whitburn and Sean Elo-Rivera, and The Center CEO Cara Dessert and I gathered to celebrate the new site, where previously underutilized office space was converted into a shelter. Representative Peters secure \$1.5 million in federal funding to make the conversion of this space possible.

The new site provides 43 beds for transition-age youth between the ages of 18 and 24—approximately double the number of beds previously available in the program at two interim sites.

The City of San Diego funds the Safe STAY program, and SDHC contracts with The Center to operate the program, in collaboration with San Diego Youth Services and the YMCA of San Diego County.

[Read the News Release](#)



Kindred Apartments  
Groundbreaking  
April 29, 2025

## Creating 125 New Affordable Rental Apartments

The former site of the County of San Diego's Family Court is being transformed into a vibrant community that brings together families and seniors, including seniors who experienced homelessness, and provides housing stability in a shared place to call home.

Mayor Todd Gloria, County of San Diego Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe, SDHC Senior Vice President of Real Estate Development Colin Miller, developer BRIDGE Housing, and additional partners celebrated the groundbreaking for Kindred Apartments.

When it is completed, the development will provide 125 rental apartments that will remain affordable for 99 years for households earning no more than 60 percent of San Diego's area median income. There will also be one unrestricted manager's unit.

SDHC awarded 84 housing vouchers to the development, of which 63 are for seniors who previously experienced homelessness and 21 are for families with low income who are not experiencing homelessness. SDHC also awarded a loan of nearly \$8 million toward the development, consisting of federal, state and local funds SDHC administers, including U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HOME funds awarded to the City of San Diego, the State of California Local Housing Trust Fund, and the City's Affordable Housing Fund.

The development is anticipated to be completed in early 2027 in the Cortez Hill neighborhood of downtown San Diego.

[Read the News Release](#)

## Developing SDHC's Next Strategic Plan

Our next Strategic Plan will be an essential guide for SDHC in the coming years as we navigate challenging financial times and look for opportunities to continue to bring housing and services to our community.

We have launched a comprehensive process that includes proactive engagement efforts to gather input from our staff and community to inform the priorities and direction that will be reflected in our Strategic Plan. SDHC has engaged The Impact Center, a highly regarded nonprofit organization that works with public and private sector organizations, for the development of the Strategic Plan.

Our proactive efforts to obtain feedback include a public survey for which we received more than 1,300 responses; interviews with the Mayor, City Councilmembers, SDHC Commissioners, community-based organizations, developers, the San Diego Housing Federation, and several SDHC senior staff; a survey of SDHC staff; staff input at an SDHC all-employee meeting; and focus group meetings with the Community-Based Organizations Advisory Group, Landlord Advisory Committee, Participant Advisory Committee, Lived Experience Advisory Group, and provider network leadership and frontline staff.

We anticipate completing the Strategic Plan and presenting it to the SDHC Board of Commissioners in July.



### Advocating Federal Funding in Washington, D.C

In March, we met with U.S. Representative Scott Peters and staff from the offices of Representatives Sara Jacobs, Mike Levin and Juan Vargas. We also participated in a California Association of Housing Authorities meeting with U.S. Senator Adam Schiff.

These meetings provided us with the opportunity to advocate to protect crucial federal funding for vital housing assistance programs, including Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and Project-Based Vouchers.

Our meetings occurred during the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials' conference in Washington.



### Discussing Housing Issues with National Leaders

Engaging in continuing dialogue with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), national associations, and our congressional delegation is important, especially in uncertain fiscal times.

In April, I had a good meeting with HUD Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing Benjamin Hobbs. We talked about how Moving to Work (MTW) status is an effective tool to stretch limited financial resources and pilot new policies and practices.

I also moderated a panel discussion in Washington, D.C., that the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce organized with representatives from the National Multifamily Housing Council and the National Apartment Association.