

June 30, 2025

The proposal to gut federal funding for rental assistance for families with low income would be catastrophic for the families who depend on this program and could lead to a mortgage crisis among the “mom-and-pop” landlords who rent to them. In an [op-ed published in the San Diego Union-Tribune](#), we discussed the potentially dire consequences if dramatic cuts to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance program were to occur. We also urged Congress to act now to secure sufficient federal housing voucher funding to protect our vulnerable neighbors and communities nationwide.

Additionally, SDHC was among a coalition of public housing authorities in California that engaged in an open forum with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to highlight concerns about funding cuts and their implications. We will continue to engage and advocate for funding levels and policies that meet our local needs and support our community.

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program provides vital housing assistance and requires collaboration among the federal government, public housing authorities, landlords and the tenants who rely on it. We know that housing assistance for families struggling financially is most effective when many organizations serving the community work together. This is abundantly clear in additional recent San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) activities to create housing solutions, which we are featuring in this newsletter.

We are grateful for the elected officials, government agencies, nonprofit organizations and philanthropists collaborating with us on these initiatives to achieve positive impacts for households in the City of San Diego.

We look forward to continuing to work with them and many other partners moving forward to help to make San Diego a diverse, vibrant and thriving city for people to call home.



Lisa Jones  
SDHC President and CEO



Presidio Palms  
Grand Opening  
June 12, 2025

## Hotel Conversion into Affordable Housing for Unhoused San Diegans

Extensive collaboration among all levels of government and community organizations has produced 161 new affordable rental homes with supportive service for unhoused San Diegans at a property SDHC now owns and manages.

At the grand opening, we celebrated Presidio Palms as a home and a source of hope for many households that had lived on the streets, in their cars or at shelters.

Jaylen, one of the new residents, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Region IX Administrator William Spencer, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, San Diego City Council President Joe LaCava, San Diego City Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera, California Department of Housing and Community Development Deputy Director of Federal Financial Assistance Jenny Cho, County of San Diego Housing and Community Development Services Director David Estrella, SDHC Deputy CEO Jeff Davis, and Regional Task Force on Homelessness (RTFH) CEO Tamara Kohler participated in this special event. SDHC Board Chair Eugene “Mitch” Mitchell, SDHC Commissioners Stephen Cushman and Melinda Vásquez, a representative from San Diego City Councilmember Stephen Whitburn’s office, and representatives from Telecare, which provides supportive services for residents through a contract with the County, also attended.

With state Homekey funding and resources from the City, County and RTFH, SDHC purchased and rehabilitated a former extended-stay hotel to create affordable apartments at Presidio Palms with access to supportive services for San Diegans who experienced homelessness. SDHC also committed federally funded project-based housing vouchers to help Presidio Palms residents pay their rent.

Including Presidio Palms, the state has awarded more than \$105 million in Homekey funds to SDHC collaborations to create more than 600 affordable housing units for unhoused San Diegans since 2020. SDHC now owns more than 550 of those housing units.

We appreciate and value all the partners we collaborated with on this project as we work together for everyone in San Diego to have a home they can afford.

[Read SDHC’s News Release](#)



HUD Region IX Administrator William Spencer  
SDHC Meeting  
June 12, 2025

## HUD Regional Administrator Meeting with SDHC

After joining us for the Presidio Palms grand opening, HUD Region IX Administrator William Spencer visited SDHC for meetings with a few members of our leadership team.

We thank Regional Administrator Spencer and the staff from HUD who accompanied him for the opportunity to discuss with them details about our status as a Moving to Work agency and a variety of our programs in rental assistance and affordable housing.

We also provided a tour of our Hotel Churchill property. Our award-winning renovation of this historic building created 72 affordable housing units with supportive services for people who experienced homelessness, mainly veterans.

We look forward to continuing to work with Regional Administrator Spencer.



Seniors Safe at Home  
Philanthropic Funding Announcement  
June 16, 2025

## Expansion of Program to Prevent Senior Homelessness

Additional philanthropic funds were announced to continue and expand the Seniors Safe at Home program, which help to prevent homelessness among seniors with low income.

This program launched in 2023 with an initial \$500,000 investment from the Lucky Duck Foundation.

To enable the program to continue and serve more seniors, the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation will provide \$100,000. The Lucky Duck Foundation is matching that amount and committed another \$500,000 to the program for a total program budget of \$700,000.

Seniors Safe a Home helps pay rent and other housing-related costs for seniors aged 55 and older with low income, experiencing a housing crisis, and at risk of homelessness. About 40 households are actively enrolled now, and the additional funding will support expanding to assist more seniors.

The nonprofit organization Serving Seniors provides case management and support for participating seniors. SDHC administers the assistance payments the program provides.

Seniors Safe at Home is modeled after the Housing Instability Prevention Program (HIPP), which the City of San Diego funds to assist families who also have low income, are experiencing a housing crisis and are at risk of homelessness. HIPP serves up to 300 families at a time. SDHC operates HIPP for the City.

Seniors Safe at Home shows the positive impact that can be accomplished when philanthropy, community organizations and government agencies collaborate.

[Read the Lucky Duck Foundation News Release](#)



[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 San Diegans with lower income and/or experiencing homelessness.