



January 15, 2016

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

Last night, San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer announced "Housing Our Heroes," a collaborative effort to provide housing opportunities for 1,000 homeless Veterans within a year, which is one of the four program components of The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative of the San Diego Housing Commission's (SDHC) **HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO**, our three-year Homelessness Action Plan (2014-17).

The Mayor's "Housing Our Heroes" program will reach out to landlords and include funding, as he announced during his State of the City Address. His leadership is vital to addressing Veteran homelessness.

Under SDHC's 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative, close to \$12.5 million in Federal, City, and SDHC resources will be invested to provide housing opportunities for homeless Veterans in the City of San Diego who are living on the streets or in shelters:

- 300 chronically homeless Veterans with a disabling condition who need supportive services and who qualify for the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) voucher program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which is administered by SDHC;
- 100 Veterans who are eligible for the HUD Sponsor-Based Housing Voucher program, which is administered by SDHC. Veterans will receive supportive services, such as case management; and
- Up to 600 additional homeless Veterans who will also be provided with housing opportunities through the Rapid Re-housing and "Housing Our Heroes" programs.



All participants of The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative must be referred by SDHC partner agencies or organizations that provide supportive services to homeless San Diegans.

The four components of The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative include:

1. Landlord Outreach – "Housing Our Heroes"
2. Rapid Re-housing
3. SDHC Federal VASH Vouchers
4. SDHC Federal Housing Vouchers with Supportive Services

Funding approvals are required by the San Diego City Council and SDHC Board of Commissioners.

Fourteen months ago, SDHC launched **HOUSING FIRST-SAN DIEGO**, and I was deeply honored to have the support of Mayor Faulconer and then-Council President Todd Gloria, who is now the Chairman of the Regional Continuum of Care Council. Last month, they also stood with us to announce new homelessness initiatives, which included rental assistance to 100 San Diego State University students who were formerly homeless or at risk of homelessness.

We will provide additional details of the comprehensive \$12.5 million **HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO** 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative at an announcement at a later date with the Mayor, City Councilmembers, SDHC Board of Commissioners, and our partners.

SDHC Partnership – Preserving Affordable Housing for Seniors

We continue to preserve affordable housing for low-income seniors with the purchase of New Palace Hotel, which was completed this week.



New Palace Hotel
1814 Fifth Avenue
Bankers Hill – San Diego

SDHC's nonprofit affiliate, Housing Development Partners (HDP), purchased New Palace Hotel, in partnership with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC).

LISC provided a loan of \$5.8 million to fund HDP's purchase of New Palace Hotel and closing costs.

New Palace Hotel provides 79 affordable efficiency units with bathrooms. These units will remain affordable for 55 years.

In addition, SDHC has committed 79 Federal Project-Based Housing Vouchers through **HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO** to provide rental assistance at New Palace Hotel. These housing vouchers have an annual value of \$780,204 based on the monthly value of the voucher, \$823.

[Read the News Release](#)

New Year's Message

As the New Year began, I was honored to be included among the local voices asked by *The San Diego Union-Tribune* newspaper to provide their resolutions for 2016.

My resolution for the New Year is that in 2016 we should help more San Diegans find affordable places to live. Part of our effort, in compliance with state law, will be a proposed ballot measure this year that would create the capacity for up to 10,000 additional affordable rental units for low-income families in the City of San Diego.

At SDHC our motto is "We're about people." And that starts by helping them find a decent home.

[Read the article](#)

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Gentry
President & Chief Executive Officer
San Diego Housing Commission

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