



The largest program administered by the San Diego Housing Commission provides rent subsidies to low-income families through the federal Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program. Funded this year by \$146.5 million from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), the Housing Choice Voucher program helps more than 14,000 low-income households—40,000 individuals—pay rents they can afford.

- About 55 percent of voucher recipients are seniors or persons with disabilities.
- Voucher recipients generally pay between 30 and 40 percent of their adjusted monthly gross income in rent.
- More than 1,200 voucher households rent directly from the Housing Commission, which owns about 1,800 rental units in the city of San Diego.
- Over 6,000 San Diego landlords participate, providing private-market residential housing to Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program recipients.



The San Diego Housing Commission is one of 35 housing authorities nationwide named by HUD as a “Moving to Work” agency, a designation that allows the agency the flexibility to design and implement more innovative approaches for providing housing assistance.

Who Is Eligible?

- Must live or work in the City of San Diego.
- Very low and low-income families whose combined annual incomes are less than 80 percent of the San Diego County Area Median Income (AMI), or less than \$65,500 for a family of four.
- Active duty military and veterans.
- Low-income seniors aged 62 or older.
- Disabled persons.
- Homeless individuals.

Waiting List

- Due to limited funding, new applicants for rental assistance may have to wait eight to nine years before they can enroll in the program.

Choice Communities

Created in 2010 by the Housing Commission, the Choice Communities program helps recipient families move into San Diego’s more affluent neighborhoods to take advantage of better employment and educational opportunities.

Neighborhoods in nine ZIP codes are considered “Choice Communities”:

- 92130 - Del Mar Heights
- 92120 - Grantville
- 92037 - La Jolla
- 92106 - Point Loma
- 92128 - Rancho Bernardo East
- 92127 - Rancho Bernardo West
- 92119 - San Carlos
- 92131 - Scripps Miramar Ranch
- 92124 - Tierrasanta



SDHC Achievement Academy

Providing participants a bridge to a better financial future, the Achievement Academy of the San Diego Housing Commission is located at our downtown San Diego headquarters.

- The new 9,600 square foot SDHC Achievement Academy is a state-of-the-art learning and skills center available at no charge to families receiving federal Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) and those living in our public housing properties.
- With its expanded curriculum, the SDHC Achievement Academy builds upon programs the Housing Commission has offered since 1992. The emphasis is on career planning, improving job skills and building savings and assets.
- The SDHC Achievement Academy continues to meet a 1990 HUD mandate that required Housing Authorities to help clients become less reliant on government assistance by achieving economic independence.
- SDHC Achievement Academy staff serves as program coordinators, and area colleges and private-sector partners donate funds or services and provide free workshops.
- Three programs comprise the SDHC Achievement Academy's curriculum: Family Self-Sufficiency, Aspire, and The Money Project. Motivated clients have successfully pursued college degrees, started their own businesses, and purchased homes under a special first-time homebuyer program.
- Two SDHC Achievement Academy campuses operate in City Heights and San Ysidro.

Partners

- Accion San Diego
- Citibank
- Community HousingWorks
- Housing Opportunities Collaborative
- Kelly Services
- Manpower
- Money Management International
- Novadebt
- San Diego Workforce Partnership
- Southwestern College Small Business Development & International Trade Center
- Springboard Consumer Credit Management
- U.S. Bank



A New Career

Rafael was struggling to support his wife and four children when he enrolled in the Achievement Academy of the San Diego Housing Commission.

Under the guidance of the SDHC Achievement Academy staff, he settled on a career goal and outlined the steps it would take to become a state licensed dental assistant.

Today, Rafael is working at a job he loves. But his ambition continues to blossom. Now he's saving to buy his family a home.



Daycare Business Owner

Shavonne knew she wanted to start and manage her own business. But she needed a road map to guide her.

Shavonne enrolled in the Achievement Academy of the San Diego Housing Commission and discovered that you don't have to be a millionaire to enter the business world. Today, she operates a successful daycare center from her home.