



Providing participants a bridge to a better financial future, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) Achievement Academy is located at SDHC's Downtown San Diego headquarters.

- The 9,600-square-foot SDHC Achievement Academy is a state-of-the-art learning and resource center and computer lab available at no charge to families receiving Federal Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) and public housing residents.
- With its expanded curriculum, the SDHC Achievement Academy builds upon the programs it has offered since 1992. The emphasis is on career planning, improving job skills to become more financially self-reliant.
- The SDHC Achievement Academy continues to meet a 1990 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandate that required housing authorities to help clients become less reliant on government assistance by achieving economic independence.
- The SDHC Rental Assistance Division's Workforce and Economic Development employees serve as workforce readiness specialists for the SDHC Achievement Academy. Area colleges and private-sector partners donate services and/or conduct free workshops.
- Motivated clients have successfully secured employment, increased their earnings, started their own businesses, and bought homes under a special first-time homebuyer program.



SDHC Achievement Academy graduate Heidi. She was once homeless, but in 2016 earned a doctorate degree in sociology, with her pursuit of financial self-reliance.

## Family Self-Sufficiency

Adult participants commit to this program for up to two years. The program includes job training, career planning, and financial literacy education such as budgeting, saving, establishing good credit, and income tax preparation.

- Many participants are eligible for an interest-bearing escrow account in which SDHC deposits a portion of their rental payment into the account.
- Participants can use the funds to meet expenses related to achieving career goals.
- Participants may receive additional credits to their account as their goals are achieved.





**Building a Better Future**

Leslie found work with the SDHC Achievement Academy's help.

With her five children grown and leading successful lives, Leslie is focused on her dream of becoming a caterer and feeding homeless individuals.

Fourteen years ago, Leslie herself was on the brink of homelessness, struggling to keep a roof over her family's heads—until she began to receive Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance from SDHC in 2002.

"They helped me to stay in my place when I didn't have a job," Leslie said.

She later enrolled in the SDHC Achievement Academy's Family Self-Sufficiency program, attending job fairs and workshops at the SDHC Achievement Academy for financial education, resume writing, interview skills and computer training.

She landed a job with a parking company. She also completed her

General Education Development through the High School Diploma Program at the Educational Cultural Complex, which operates off-campus programs through San Diego City College.

On July 31, 2015, she received her certificate from the Culinary Arts and Bakeshop Program from San Diego Continuing Education. She began studying general education and culinary arts at Grossmont College in August 2015.

## SDHC Achievement Academy Courses & Workshops

The SDHC Achievement Academy is located at SDHC's downtown headquarters and offers classroom-style learning centers and a state-of-the-art computer lab. To get started, eligible clients should call the SDHC Achievement Academy reception at (619) 578-7451 or email [achievementacademy@sdhc.org](mailto:achievementacademy@sdhc.org).

**SDHC Achievement Academy**  
**Downtown San Diego**  
**1045 11th Avenue, 1st Floor**

**Work Readiness**

- Interview Preparation and Techniques
- Introduction to Job Search
- Resume and Cover Letter Writing
- Small Business Development

**Financial Education**

- Budgeting
- Checking & Savings
- Credit & Debt
- Taxes & Earned Income Tax Credit

**Workforce Development**

- Communication and Conflict Resolution
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Customer Service
- Motivation and Personal Accountability

## Our Partnerships

The SDHC Achievement Academy is proud to partner with local area colleges and private-sector companies to provide courses and workshops on topics such as finding a job, small business, computer literacy, personal finance, and home ownership. We thank them for their contributions. (Partial list)

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|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| • Able-Disabled Advocacy                         | • International Rescue Committee      | • San Diego Community College District |
| • Biocom   | • Jewish Family Services              | • San Diego Futures Foundation         |
| • Chase Bank                                     | • Juma Ventures                       | • San Diego Public Library             |
| • City Heights Community Development Corporation | • Junior Achievement                  | • San Diego Workforce Partnership      |
| • Comprehensive Training Systems                 | • La Maestra Community Health Centers | • Second Chance                        |
| • CONNECT2Careers San Diego                      | • Labor Ready                         | • Self-Help Federal Credit Union       |
| • Copley-Price Family YMCA                       | • Microsoft                           | • Southwestern Community College       |
| • Grossmont Community College                    | • Money Management International      | • The Lawton Group                     |
| • Housing Opportunities Collaborative            | • National Alliance on Mental Illness | • United Way of San Diego County       |

