



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE

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HOUSING COMMISSION TO OVERSEE CITY'S HOMELESS WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM

San Diego, CA— For the next two years, the San Diego Housing Commission will oversee the [city's two homeless winter shelters](#), one in downtown and another in the Midway District for veterans. The mayor and City Council will retain the authority to choose the location for the downtown shelter.

That action was taken today by the San Diego Housing Authority, which unanimously approved an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will transfer administrative responsibility for the city's winter shelters and other homeless programs to the Housing Commission.

Both tent-like structures are open for 120 days from December through April. The downtown shelter can accommodate up to 200 people; the veterans' shelter serves up to 150.

“Given the budget constraints at all levels of government, it makes sense to combine resources with the city to provide much-needed shelters for the homeless, including our veterans,” said Richard C. Gentry, the Housing Commission's President and CEO.

The MOU calls for the Housing Commission, beginning July 1, 2010, to manage the contracts awarded to nonprofit social service agencies to operate the winter shelters and city funded homeless programs.

The Housing Commission can cancel the agreement with 90 days written notice if the city fails to provide adequate funding for the emergency shelters and related programs.

Under the MOU, the Housing Commission will receive the city's allocation of \$660,147 in federal Emergency Shelter Grant Funds along with \$856,809 in federal Community Development Block Grant funding. The Housing Commission will continue to contribute up to \$400,000 of its own funds.

The combined funding of \$1.9 million will also be used to operate:

- Two emergency winter shelters;
- Cortez Hill Family Shelter, which currently provides emergency housing for up to 45 families or approximately 150 individuals; and
- Neil Good Day Center in East Village, which offers homeless services such as laundry, mail, storage, and showers.

(MORE)

On June 18, 2010, the Housing Commission's board approved the MOU.

Previously, the emergency winter shelters and other city funded homeless programs were overseen by City of San Diego staff members.

Established in 1979, the San Diego Housing Commission is an award-winning public agency that provides a variety of affordable housing programs that annually improve the lives of nearly 76,000 San Diegans. For more information, visit www.sdhc.org

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