

# San Diego City Council

## PHONE-IN TESTIMONY PERIOD NOW OPEN FOR

Housing Authority Item 2 and Council Item 339:

COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program MOU and Funding

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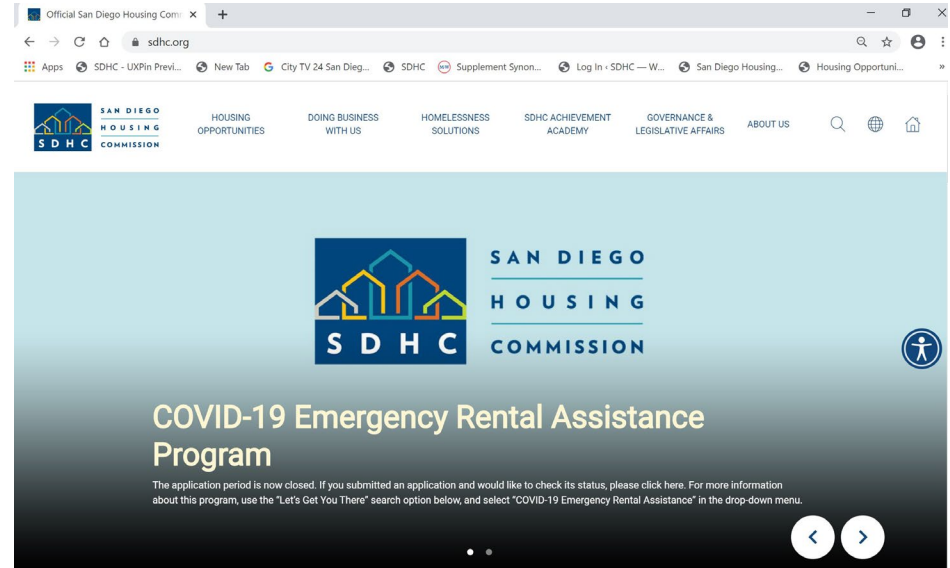
San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC)  
City's COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program  
Memorandum of Understanding and Additional Funds  
Housing Authority of the City of San Diego Agenda #2 and  
City Council Agenda #339  
December 8, 2020

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Senior Vice President  
Rental Assistance and Workforce Development  
San Diego Housing Commission



# COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program Introduction

- SDHC administers the City of San Diego's (City) COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program.
- The program helps families with low income in the City of San Diego who experience financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.





# COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program Initial Funding

June 30, 2020:

- San Diego City Council authorized the expenditure of up to \$15,100,000 in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to create the program.
- Funds provided to SDHC pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding between SDHC and the City for SDHC to oversee and administer the program.





# COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program Outcomes

- Program application period: July 20, 2020 – August 7, 2020
- More than 8,300 applications from City of San Diego ZIP Codes
- Preliminary assessment: Approximately 5,400 applications appeared to meet eligibility criteria
  - Based solely on the information the applicant provided on their online application.
- After verification of information and required documentation, as of November 30, 2020:
  - 3,697 households qualified for one-time rental assistance
    - 3,673 payments disbursed, totaling \$13.59 million
    - 24 applications approved with payment pending determination of proposed funds to make payments
    - 1,717 households ineligible for assistance





# COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

## New Phase of the Program

October 13, 2020:

- San Diego City Council unanimously approved the allocation of \$5,000,000 in CARES Act Community Development Block Grant funds to support the City's COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program.
- New funds potentially could assist approximately 1,250 families if each household received the maximum \$4,000 one-time rental assistance.
- SDHC anticipates reopening the web-based application portal to receive new applications.





# COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

## Anticipated Eligibility Criteria

- The household has a City of San Diego address.
- Household income is at or below 60 percent of the San Diego Area Median Income.
- The household is NOT currently receiving any rental subsidies.
- The household is NOT currently a tenant of a property owned or managed by SDHC.
- The household does NOT have savings to meet their financial need.
- The household has eligible immigration status (U.S. citizen/U.S. National, lawful permanent resident/conditional permanent resident, a refugee/person seeking asylum or granted asylum).
- The household experienced hardship directly related to COVID-19.



# COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program Staff Recommendations

- Staff recommends that the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego and the San Diego City Council take the staff-recommended actions detailed in staff report HAR20-046 for SDHC to continue to administer the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.







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## COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

# Questions & Comments



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