



December 11, 2015

## Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry  
President & CEO

As 2015 draws to a close, I wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year on behalf of the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC).

I invite you to read about SDHC's economic impact on our San Diego region in a study which we just released.

In addition, I would like to share with you recent events on addressing homelessness in the City of San Diego, including new initiatives in **HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO**, SDHC's landmark three-year Homelessness Action Plan.

## HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO: New Initiatives & Accomplishments

San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer and City Councilmember Todd Gloria joined me at a news conference at San Diego State University (SDSU) to introduce three new initiatives for the second year of **HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO**, and to highlight our first-year accomplishments.



(Left to right) SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry, SDSU President Elliot Hirshman, Monarch School CEO Erin Spiewak, San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria, and San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer.

The new initiatives continue SDHC's objective of creating additional affordable housing with supportive services that will impact the lives of up to 1,500 homeless San Diegans. They include:

1. Up to 100 SDSU students who have been homeless or at risk of homelessness will receive Federal rental assistance through a first-of-its kind housing partnership between SDHC and SDSU. SDSU President Elliot Hirshman joined us at the news conference to introduce the new initiative, which will assist students who are part of the university's Guardian Scholars Program.
2. A new pilot program will provide Federal rental housing vouchers for up to 25 families with at least one child enrolled at the Monarch School. Monarch School CEO Erin Spiewak spoke at the news conference about how this program will help students at the school, one of the few in the nation specifically serving homeless children.
3. For the second consecutive year, SDHC will award up to \$10 million to create permanent affordable housing with supportive services for homeless San Diegans.

In addition, U.S. Representative Scott Peters, 52nd District, and Speaker of the California State Assembly Toni Atkins issued proclamations to honor the first-year anniversary of **HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO**.

[Read the News Release](#)

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## SDHC Economic Impact Study

SDHC directly injected \$279 million into the local economy in fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014), helping create or support nearly 3,100 jobs countywide, according to an analysis from the Fermanian Business and Economics Institute at Point Loma Nazarene University.

That analysis, which SDHC commissioned to measure our local impact, focuses on the direct effect of the federal and state funds that we bring to the region as well as the "ripple effect" of what happens to those funds as they are used, such as the impact of the jobs that are created on our construction projects or the effect that those projects have on the local supply chain.

Based on the IMPLAN model, which economists rely on to study the effects of public or private spending, the study found that when the ripple effect is included, SDHC's countywide impact totaled \$316 million.

"SDHC has a large footprint in terms of the families and individuals it serves in various ways. Relative to its budget, its economic impact is sizable," the report concludes.

[Read the Report](#)

## City's Permanent Indoor Facility Marks First Winter Serving Homeless Adults

For the first Thanksgiving in nearly three decades, the City of San Diego did not put up tents for an emergency winter shelter. Instead, homeless San Diegans are finding year-round indoor shelter in the City's permanent Interim Housing Program, administered by SDHC.



(Left to right) San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria, SDHC Chairman of the Board Gary Gramling, and St. Vincent de Paul Village CEO Deacon Jim Vargas.

The 350-bed facility at the Paul Mirabile Center at St. Vincent de Paul Village is on track to serve 2,700 homeless San Diegans during the current fiscal year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016). This is compared to approximately 1,300 homeless San Diegans who were served at the City's Emergency Winter Shelter tents, during the five winter months the tents were available.

In addition, 52 percent of the homeless individuals in the Interim Housing Program have transitioned to longer-term housing in the first five months, compared to 26 percent who made similar transitions during the five months the shelter tents were available.

San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Councilmember Todd Gloria and SDHC Chairman of the Board Gary Gramling and Jimmy "Deacon Jim" Vargas, CEO of St. Vincent de Paul Village, announced the figures at a news conference held three days before Thanksgiving to announce the progress of the City's Interim Housing Program.

[Read the News Release](#)

[Watch video on SDHC's YouTube Channel](#)

## SDHC Partnership – Grand Opening of Alpha Square

This week, formerly homeless and low-income residents of the newly constructed Alpha Square Apartments are moving into 201 spacious and new studio apartments in Downtown San Diego's East Village Neighborhood.



Alpha Square Apartments Ribbon Cutting  
550 14th Street  
Downtown San Diego – East Village

I was fortunate to attend a grand opening ceremony and can attest to the high-quality of Alpha Square Apartments, which were co-developed by Alpha Project for the Homeless and Chelsea Investment Corporation.

SDHC authorized the issuance of \$6.2 million in multifamily housing revenue bonds toward the construction of Alpha Square and awarded 135 federal rental housing vouchers with an estimated annual value of \$1.4 million, to provide rental assistance for the development.

Speaker of the California State Assembly Toni Atkins, Mayor Kevin Faulconer and City Councilmember Todd Gloria joined SDHC Chairman of the Board Gary Gramling as speakers at that the grand opening ceremony on November 18.

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I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

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

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