September 21, 2016

Message from the President & CEO

We are delighted to announce the grand reopening of Hotel Churchill, a 100-year-old hotel that is now home to 74 homeless Veterans. This highly symbolic renovation is the culmination of a partnership between the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Last week, I had the honor of testifying before the Senate Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies. Today I testified in Washington, D.C., at a hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies. In my testimony, I highlighted the need for a fair and equitable funding formula for providing Federal homelessness services.

The subcommittee was considering the question, "Housing vulnerable families and individuals – is there a better way?" I believe that providing affordable housing opportunities should look much like the San Diego Housing Commission, which provides a variety of award-winning affordable housing programs and services that stimulate the local economy, revitalize neighborhoods, and impact the lives of more than 125,000 individuals in the City of San Diego annually. The RCCC Board oversees millions of dollars that are allocated annually to the region by HUD for homelessness services.

I am extremely proud of SDHC’s renovation of the historical Hotel Churchill, which will provide new beginnings for 72 homeless individuals, including 56 Veterans, who will receive unprecedented supportive services on-site from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

As mentioned in my message to our members earlier this month, the Regional Continuum of Care (RCCC) recently held an assessment meeting to ensure that our goals and objectives align with the needs of the region.

I look forward to continuing to work with our members, stakeholders, and partners to make San Diego a city where everyone has a place to call home.

Sincerely,
Richard C. Gentry
President & Chief Executive Officer

Regional Push to Update Federal Funding Formulas

An SDHC proposal that could positively impact Federal funding for San Diego County is the alternative fifth proposal, called Formula E. Formula E would more equitably distribute Federal Funds across regions like San Diego experiencing the highest levels of homelessness.

The studios will remain affordable for 65 years. The 8 transitional age youth units are intended for homeless and runaway youth, and the 8 studios built for Adults and Veterans are intended to provide better indicators of potential homelessness.

In July, HUD released four proposals to update its funding formula. The four proposals include new factors that are intended to provide better indicators of potential homelessness.

An alternative fifth proposal, called Formula E, is proposed by the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) in collaboration with U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Representative Scott Peters, and stakeholders.

San Diego is ranked 22nd in Federal homelessness funding despite having the fourth highest homelessness.

This alternative fifth proposal, called Formula E, is focused on the most vulnerable and is intended to provide a more equitable funding distribution.

I invite your comments.

Read the RCCC letter to HUD on Formula E.