



SAN DIEGO  
HOUSING  
COMMISSION

## News Release

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### **CITY'S WINTER TENTS CLOSER TO BEING REPLACED BY YEAR-ROUND INTERIM HOUSING FACILITY, WOULD SERVE THREE TIMES AS MANY HOMELESS SAN DIEGANS**

*San Diego Housing Commission recommendation also includes new day center facility;  
both will be operated by St. Vincent de Paul Village*

**SAN DIEGO, CA**—After nearly 30 years of providing temporary tents during the winter months for homeless San Diegans, the City of San Diego (City) may be close to providing year-round shelter in a permanent facility, based on a recommendation by San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) staff. ([Read SDHC Board Report](#))

The proposed City-funded year-round interim housing program to be operated by St. Vincent de Paul Village, Inc. (St. Vincent) at their downtown campus will assist as many as 2,835 homeless individuals—more than three times the minimum of 800 individuals served annually by the winter tents.\*

“The time is now to do the right thing for homeless San Diegans—no more tents,” SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry said. “The San Diego City Council asked the San Diego Housing Commission to find a solution, and that’s what we have done.”

This effort was directed by Mayor Kevin Faulconer, who played a key leadership role in finding a year-round interim housing solution to replace the temporary tents.

"One of my top priorities as mayor is creating more opportunities for San Diegans, and that includes homeless individuals and veterans in need," Mayor Faulconer said. "This permanent, year-round interim housing is the latest change to how the City cares for homeless individuals. We're shifting to results-driven programs that provide opportunities and help our fellow San Diegans get off the streets for good."

The City's emergency shelter and Day Center programs are part of the City's Homeless Shelters and Services Programs, administered by SDHC since July 1, 2010.

“A results-driven year-round interim housing facility will help address San Diego’s homeless challenges using national best practices,” said Councilmember Todd Gloria, whose district (3) would include the proposed interim housing program.

To be operated at the Paul Mirabile Center at St. Vincent's Downtown San Diego campus, the proposed year-round interim housing would begin operations July 1, 2015, and provide:

- Minimum 350 beds for homeless men and women (ages 18 and up), equal to the number of beds currently provided by the City's Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter and Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter;
- Up to 40 percent of beds are to be set aside for homeless Veterans;
- Supportive services to stabilize lives;
- Three meals a day
- 24-hour residential and security services;
- 45-day lengths of stay for residents, to reinforce the importance of moving out of homelessness and into more permanent housing; and
- Participation in the Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement system for bed referrals, utilized by homeless service providers in Downtown San Diego.

Partnering with St. Vincent's to deliver supportive services will be Veterans Village of San Diego (San Diego's largest provider of homeless Veterans' programs) and People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), operator of the Connections Housing Downtown one-stop center for homeless San Diegans.

The annual cost to the City for the operation of the interim housing will be \$1,882,507, including administrative costs, funded by \$1,470,000 in City General Funds, \$145,155 from the City's federal Emergency Solutions Grant funds, and \$267,352 from the City's federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

The proposal for the year-round interim housing also requires consistent communication to East Village residents through community meetings and additional effective forms of outreach. Also, St. Vincent will provide a comprehensive and collaborative homeless outreach plan targeted to the surrounding area.

Approximately 100 beds at the Paul Mirabile Center will be immediately available on April 1, 2015, to assist with the three-month transition from the closing of the City's emergency shelter tents to the beginning of the interim housing program. The beds are recommended to be funded with \$250,000 in City General Funds, subject to City Council approval.

All 350 beds at the Paul Mirabile Center will be ready for use as interim housing by July 1, 2015.

The proposal for year-round interim housing will be presented to the SDHC Board of Commissioners for consideration at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 19. The proposal would then be heard by the San Diego City Council at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24.

The 350 interim housing beds at the proposed year-round facility will be added to the number of beds the City is anticipated to fund through its Homeless Shelters and Services Programs, administered by SDHC, in Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016).

<b>YEAR-ROUND INTERIM AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FUNDED BY CITY OF SAN DIEGO</b>			
<b>Housing Program</b>	<b>Number of Beds</b>	<b>FY 2016 Funding*</b>	<b>Funding Source**</b>
Cortez Hill Family Center (Interim Housing)	150	\$205,902	CDBG
		\$295,153	ESG
Connections Housing Downtown (Interim Housing)	150	\$303,575	CDBG
		\$101,058	ESG
		\$300,000	City General Funds
Serial Inebriate Program Expansion (Transitional Housing)	20	\$120,000	City General Funds
<b>Total w/o Proposed Interim Housing</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>\$1,325,688</b>	
Proposed Interim Housing	350	\$1,470,000	City General Funds
		\$267,352	CDBG
		\$145,155	ESG
<b>Total Including Proposed Interim Housing</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>\$3,208,195</b>	

\* Projected funds available. Excludes Housing Commission overhead costs.

\*\* For the purposes of this table, only Federal funds and City General Funds administered by the Housing Commission are included.

In addition, SDHC is recommending that the City's Day Center facility should be operated by St. Vincent and relocated to St. Vincent's campus. During FY 2016, the Day Center would continue operations at the current Neil Good Day Center, 299 17<sup>th</sup> Street, with showers provided at the Joan Kroc Center located at 1501 Imperial Avenue on St. Vincent's Campus.

St. Vincent will pursue a Conditional Use Permit, with SDHC's support, needed to relocate the Day Center to 1402 Commercial Street, on St. Vincent's campus and contiguous to the Paul Mirabile Center.

The annual cost to the City for St. Vincent's oversight and management of the Day Center will be \$500,000, funded by the City's federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

**Background:**

On October 7, 2014, the San Diego City Council directed SDHC to conduct a programmatic study to identify potential locations for a permanent indoor shelter to be completed and presented to the City Council prior to April 1, 2015. In addition, the current 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Newton Avenue location of the City's Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter was not considered as a site for a City shelter for the upcoming winter months of 2015-16, in accordance with City Council direction.

On December 2, 2014, Mayor Kevin Faulconer, City Councilmember Todd Gloria, then the Council President, City Councilmember David Alvarez and SDHC President & CEO Gentry announced a Request for Proposal (RFP) to seek proposals that would replace both the temporary tents and potentially the City's Day Center (Neil Good Day Center), with new permanent structures.

Selection of St. Vincent for the operation of both programs streamlines and enhances the effectiveness of the interim housing and day center by uniting three previously disparate

programs (City’s Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter, Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter, and Neil Good Day Center) under one agency, thereby creating a centralized access point for homeless San Diegans in the City.

This “central intake” approach is supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), one of the largest federal funders of homeless programs, which praises this model for being less fragmented and for using scarce resources more efficiently to prevent and end homelessness.

In addition, organizations across San Diego are re-evaluating their service portfolio to more strategically achieve the best possible outcomes to address homelessness, using national best practices.

City-wide, there are more than 1,800 transitional housing beds, whereby participants can stay up to two years, compared with approximately 441 year-round interim housing beds in which participants can stay for 30-120 days.

<b>CITY-WIDE INTERIM HOUSING BEDS</b>			
<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>City Council District</b>	<b>Year-Round Beds</b>
PATH	Connections Housing Downtown	3	150
Catholic Charities	Rachel's Night Shelter	3	12
San Diego Rescue Mission	Nueva Vida Haven	3	60
YWCA	Becky's House Emergency Shelter	3	47
YWCA	Cortez Hill Family Center	3	150
San Diego Rescue Mission	First Step Program	3	22
<b>Total w/o Proposed Interim Housing</b>			<b>441</b>
St. Vincent de Paul Village	Proposed City-funded Interim Housing	3	350
<b>Total Including Proposed Interim Housing</b>			<b>791</b>

Furthermore, for the past two years, HUD has been encouraging Continuum of Care homeless service providers to reexamine using transitional housing only for the populations that need it the most, such as survivors of domestic violence, youth aging out of the foster care system, and individuals who need substance abuse treatment because this type of housing utilizes more supportive resources.

At the same time, HUD has added rapid re-housing as an eligible Continuum of Care-funded program. Rapid re-housing is a “housing first” model that provides short-term rental assistance to homeless families and individuals as soon as possible, combined with supportive services and limited case management.

On October 2, 2014, St. Vincent de Paul Village received approval to reallocate its HUD Continuum of Care grant funds to be used for a Housing First rapid-rehousing program for homeless families.

As a result of this reallocation of funds from the 350 bed program at the Paul Mirabile Center at the St. Vincent campus in downtown, these beds became available for new purposes.

The 270 single men and 80 single women currently residing at the Mirabile Center are being transferred to other appropriate housing options such as permanent supportive or permanent affordable housing.

These 350 beds now increase the number of City-funded year-round interim housing beds to a total of 650 beds that will be available to help more homeless San Diegans transition off the streets and begin to stabilize their lives.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to voice their opinions at the San Diego Housing Commission Board meeting on Thursday, March 19, 9 a.m., at its downtown headquarters' at 1122 Broadway, Suite 400. Another opportunity will be available at the San Diego City Council meeting of Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m., 202 C Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor.

Written comments regarding the recommended action can also be submitted to SDHC at [sdhcinfo@sdhc.org](mailto:sdhcinfo@sdhc.org)

For more information about SDHC, please visit [www.sdhc.org](http://www.sdhc.org).

\*NOTE: The estimated number of homeless individuals who will be assisted through the interim housing program is derived from this formula: 365 days per year ÷ 45 days length of stay × 350 beds. The minimum number of homeless individuals the City's emergency winter shelter operators are contracted to serve is 800.

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