



SAN DIEGO  
HOUSING  
COMMISSION

## News Release

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### **PARTNERSHIP CAMPAIGN TO END HOMELESSNESS REACHES A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE, ASSISTED WITH FEDERAL HOUSING VOUCHERS AWARDED BY THE SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION**

**San Diego, CA**—The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC), one of the first public housing agencies in the nation to direct federal housing vouchers to programs that assist chronically homeless adults, and its partners have achieved a significant milestone toward ending chronic homelessness in downtown San Diego—averaging about 18 individuals being taken off the streets each month.

Leaders of the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego, which includes SDHC, announced today that for four consecutive months this year, an average of 2.5 percent of the chronic and vulnerable homeless population in downtown San Diego now have a home of their own.

Reaching the 2.5 percent milestone makes the City of San Diego part of the 2.5 Percent Club of the 100,000 Homes Campaign, a national effort to house 100,000 homeless individuals by July 2014. The 100,000 Homes Campaign determined that a community that houses 2.5 percent of its chronic and vulnerable homeless residents each month could end homelessness for that population in four years.

SDHC has committed more than 900 federal housing vouchers toward addressing homelessness. Of those, 286 vouchers specifically support housing that helped the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego reach the 2.5 percent milestone.

Since 2010, the partnership efforts of the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego have taken a total of 565 homeless people off the streets and into supportive housing.

“More than half of the 565 homeless individuals who now have a home of their own have been assisted through federal housing vouchers that the San Diego Housing Commission has directed to the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego,” said SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry. “Our federal government is a key partner in this campaign to end homelessness, reinforcing the reality that a community can’t do this alone.”

| <b>Federal Housing Vouchers awarded by SDHC since 2010<br/>to support the “Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego”</b> |  |
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| <b>Federal Vouchers</b>  | <b>Partnership Campaign</b>  |
| 200<br>(125 Sponsor-Based Vouchers; 75 VASH Vouchers for homeless Veterans)  | Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego<br>Nonprofit Service Providers: Community Research Foundation and Mental Health Systems<br>Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers Partner: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs |
| 13 Sponsor-Based   | Home Again, Project 25 Campaign of the United Way of San Diego County<br>Nonprofit Service Provider: St. Vincent de Paul Village   |
| 73 Project-Based Vouchers  | Connections Housing Downtown, City-sponsored, one-stop homeless housing and service center. Vouchers support housing in permanent studios.<br>Nonprofit provider: People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)   |
| 286  | Total Federal Housing Vouchers   |

Federal housing vouchers awarded by SDHC include:

- Sponsor-Based Vouchers: Awarded to a nonprofit organization, or “sponsor,” which operates permanent housing for homeless men, women and children.
- Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides case management and clinical services to homeless veterans before they are eligible for VASH vouchers.
- Project-Based Vouchers: Rental assistance is linked to a specific housing program, including transitional housing.

Today’s recognition was commemorated before the meeting of the leadership team of the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego, held at the County of San Diego’s administration building. Those in attendance included California Assembly Majority Leader Toni Atkins, San Diego Mayor Bob Filner and County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Greg Cox; representatives of federal and local government agencies; and advocates for ending homelessness.

“Homelessness is an economic issue, but it’s also a moral issue,” San Diego Mayor Bob Filner said. “We are the richest nation in the history of the world. To have homelessness in our society is inexcusable. We will solve it here in San Diego.”

County Supervisor Greg Cox, Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors, said collaboration among local agencies is essential to addressing homelessness in the City of San Diego.

“Our region certainly deserves more federal funding to help the homeless, and we should all be working together,” Cox said. “Rick Gentry’s track record is one of bringing everybody together on this issue.”

The high priority that SDHC places on addressing homelessness is a key element of the success of the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego, said Robin Madaffer, the campaign's Co-Chair. "We could not do what we do without Rick and his team," Madaffer said.

In addition to SDHC, other key partners who attended today's recognition of the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego included:

- The City of San Diego
- Civic San Diego
- Downtown San Diego Partnership
- The County of San Diego
- County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System
- LeSar Development Consultants
- United Way of San Diego County
- 100,000 Homes Campaign
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego
- People Assisting the Homeless
- San Diego Police Department

Nationwide, fifteen communities were part of the 2.5 Percent Club last year. This year, 40 communities, including San Diego, are in the club, said Beth Sandor, Director of Improvement for the 100,000 Homes Campaign.

The 2.5 percent calculation is based on the number of chronic and vulnerable homeless people in downtown San Diego census tracts, as determined by the national Point in Time Count of homeless individuals, conducted by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless.

According to LeSar Development Consultants, a leader and partner in the Campaign to End Homelessness in Downtown San Diego, 725 chronic and vulnerable homeless people were in downtown San Diego in 2012. Housing about 18 of them per month achieves the 2.5 percent milestone.

HUD defines chronic homelessness as being continuously homeless for a year or more or experiencing at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years while also having a disability. The 100,000 Homes Campaign considers a homeless individual to be vulnerable if he or she scores on the Vulnerability Index. The index rates eight health factors to identify whether homeless individuals are at risk of dying if they remain on the street.

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

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