



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

News Release

June 30, 2014

**Media Contact: Maria Velasquez, Vice President
Community Relations & Communications
619-578-7560 mariav@sdhc.org**

**MORE THAN 700 HOMELESS SAN DIEGANS
OBTAINED PERMANENT OR LONGER-TERM HOUSING
WITH HELP FROM THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO'S
EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTERS**

*Shelters were in continuous operation for 19 months under contracts administered by the
San Diego Housing Commission*

SAN DIEGO, CA—More than 700 homeless men and women moved into more stable permanent or longer-term housing as a result of help they received at the City of San Diego's (City) two emergency winter shelters, which remained in continuous operation for an unprecedented 19 months.

The Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter (200 beds) and the Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter (150 beds) will close Tuesday, July 1, ending their longest run ever. The two shelters will reopen around Thanksgiving for regular operation during the winter months.

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) administers the contracts for the City's homeless emergency winter shelters. Alpha Project for the Homeless operates the Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter and Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) operates the Veterans' Emergency Winter Shelter.

In April 2014, SDHC partnered with Mental Health Systems, Inc., to provide enhanced case management, using a new, coordinated intake system to identify each individual's needs and help them follow a plan toward obtaining stable housing and income.

"This has been a collaborative process to provide opportunities for homeless men and women to obtain permanent or longer term-housing," SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry said. "Providing permanent housing as quickly as possible is the ultimate goal and cornerstone of the Housing First model to address homelessness, for which the San Diego Housing Commission is a driving force in the City with support from Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Council President Todd Gloria."

From November 23, 2012, to June 23, 2014, the Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter in Downtown San Diego helped 608 homeless men and women transition into more stable housing:

- 311 into permanent housing; and
- 297 into longer-term transitional housing programs such as Connections Housing Downtown and St. Vincent de Paul Village.

In addition, federal funding administered by SDHC was directed toward Rapid Re-housing efforts operated by Alpha Project that provided rental security deposits and rental assistance for up to 4 months to help homeless shelter residents secure housing.

Through enhanced case management and Rapid Re-housing federal funding, the Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter also moved homeless Veterans into stable housing. The data below only reflects housing outcomes from April 2014-June 2014:

- 85 homeless Veterans into permanent housing; and
- 31 homeless Veterans into longer-term housing.

New Assessment Housing Placement System Introduced-April 2014:

From April 2014-June 23, 2014, a new coordinated intake and assessment system to better screen individuals to provide them with the most appropriate housing options was conducted by Mental Health Systems, Inc., and Alpha Project for the Homeless.

The Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization and Decision Assistance Tool, or VI-SPDAT, is the first step in the housing placement assessment system being developed in Downtown San Diego as part of the national 25 Cities Initiative.

SDHC is one of the local agencies participating in the 25 Cities Initiative, which launched on March 27-28, 2014, in Washington, D.C., to help communities work together to end Veterans homelessness by 2015 and chronic homelessness by 2016.

Homeless individuals exiting the Single Adult and Veterans' Shelters will continue to receive help with housing placement because their information has already been gathered in this coordinated intake system.

Background—City's Adult Emergency Shelters:

SDHC has administered the contracts for the City's Homeless Shelters and Services Programs since July 1, 2010.

The City's Homeless Shelters and Services Programs have historically included two temporary structures to provide shelter for San Diego's homeless population during the winter months.

In addition to a warm, clean place to stay, the 200-bed Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter and the 150-bed Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter also provide meals, medical services and additional assistance to help homeless San Diegans become more self-reliant.

Under a series of budgeting actions by the former San Diego Mayor and City Council, both the Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter and the Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter remained open from November 23, 2012, through July 1, 2014.

The Adult Emergency Winter Shelters will return to their traditional winter operations in November 2014 under a Memorandum of Understanding approved by the SDHC Board of Commissioners on [May 9, 2014](#), and the San Diego City Council on [June 17, 2014](#).

The City of San Diego has implemented an emergency winter shelter program for adults every winter since 1987 to assist homeless individuals during the year's coldest and wettest months.

Read [SDHC's Annual Report](#) for more information about its homelessness programs, pages 52-148, or visit www.sdhc.org

###