



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

News Release

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SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION IS RECOGNIZED AS OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT AGENCY OF THE YEAR

*Awarded for Housing First–San Diego,
SDHC’s Three-year Homelessness Action Plan*

SAN DIEGO, CA—The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) received the Outstanding Government Agency of the Year Ruby Award from the San Diego Housing Federation for the creation of [HOUSING FIRST–SAN DIEGO](#), a three-year homelessness action plan to create additional affordable housing with supportive services.

The Chairman of the SDHC Board of Commissioners, Gary Gramling, and Commissioners Margaret Davis and Kellee Hubbard accepted the award with SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry. It was presented by Commissioner Frank Urtasun, Regional Vice President of External Relations for San Diego Gas & Electric Company, who chaired the San Diego Housing Federation’s 25th anniversary awards dinner.

“We are very proud to receive this prestigious award that reflects the dedication of our agency and our employees who are engaged in helping homeless San Diegans begin to rebuild their lives,” said Gentry.

HOUSING FIRST–SAN DIEGO applies the power of SDHC’s federal and local housing resources to create Permanent Supportive Housing. It will impact the lives of as many as 1,500 homeless San Diegans.

The five-point HOUSING FIRST–SAN DIEGO plan, announced on November 12, 2014:

- 1) Awards up to \$30 million over the next three years to create Permanent Supportive Housing that will remain affordable for 55 years;
- 2) Commits up to 1,500 federal rental housing vouchers to provide housing to homeless individuals and families;
- 3) Renovates the historical Hotel Churchill to create 72 affordable studios for homeless Veterans and youth aging out of the foster care system;
- 4) Invests \$14.7 million from the federal “Moving to Work” program to acquire Village North Senior Garden Apartments. SDHC committed federal Project-Based Housing Vouchers to 24 units to create additional Permanent Supportive Housing for seniors; and
- 5) Dedicates 25 of SDHC’s own affordable units to provide furnished apartments for homeless individuals and families. SDHC is one of the first public housing agencies in the nation to commit affordable rental housing that it owns for this purpose.

The Ruby Award honors a governmental agency “that took unusual risk or initiative to support affordable housing and/or community development initiatives in the past year.”

In addition, two SDHC partnership developments also received Ruby Awards, representing “the best in affordable housing”:

- [City Heights Ten](#), an SDHC partnership with City Heights Community Development Corporation (CDC) and Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation, was honored for Housing Project of the Year – Rehabilitation. This project improved 129 units of affordable housing in the City Heights community to keep them affordable to low- and very low-income households for 55 years.
- The SDG&E Energy Efficiency & Sustainability award for new construction went to [Paseo at COMM 22](#), developed by BRIDGE Housing Corp. and Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee on Anti-Poverty (MAAC), which has 128 units of affordable housing for families and will celebrate its grand opening in Logan Heights on May 8.

The San Diego Housing Federation is a coalition of affordable housing developers, advocates and organizations that promote the creation of affordable housing focused on lower-income families.

For more information about SDHC, please visit www.sdhc.org.

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