



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO'S EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM IS NOW UNDERWAY

Program for Homeless will be Located in a Vacant Building in Barrio Logan

San Diego, CA— Preparations are now underway by the San Diego Housing Commission to implement the City's annual emergency Winter Shelter Program for the homeless in Barrio Logan. In a unanimous vote today by the City Council, the program will be located in a vacant building at 1625 Newton Avenue.

The winter shelter program will continue to have 24-hour private security as well as increased San Diego Police patrols in and around the facility for the duration of shelter operations.

The winter shelter program calls for one shelter that would accommodate up to 200 adults, and a second, already approved for the Midway District, for up to 150 military veterans. Each facility will operate for approximately four months beginning in December 2010.

The San Diego Housing Commission was selected by the San Diego Housing Authority in June 2010, to manage the City's emergency winter shelter program for the homeless. However, the City Council retained final authority on site selection for the shelter program, which this year is projected to be \$778,115.

Day-to-day operations for the adult shelter will be handled by Alpha Project for the Homeless. The Midway District will utilize a pre-fabricated structure that will be placed at the Navy's SPAWAR property, a partnership that has continued for several years. Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) will operate the Midway facility, which will also have security.

For over a decade, the City has operated a winter shelter program that provides homeless persons protection from inclement weather, and also makes available comprehensive services to address permanent housing needs, mental health screening, drug and alcohol treatment, and job counseling.

(MORE)

Housing Commission Homelessness Prevention Programs

In addition to managing the City's Winter Shelter Program, the San Diego Housing Commission plays a vital role in regional efforts to prevent homelessness.

Registry Week to End Homelessness

San Diego Housing Commission to Provide 125 Housing Vouchers

In late September, the San Diego Housing Commission participated in the national campaign Registry Week to End Homelessness. The homeless survey program utilized over 240 volunteers to identify the 125 most vulnerable homeless individuals who will be offered housing and intensive case management.

The Housing Commission will provide direct housing assistance in the form of 50 rental housing assistance vouchers to those identified as most vulnerable. Housing assistance payments will go directly to landlords or building managers. In addition, the Housing Commission has already provided 75 additional rental housing assistance vouchers to the local Veterans Administration, which will coordinate supportive services to assist veterans identified through the registry data.

Registry Week to End Homelessness will also create a comprehensive registry containing a far more accurate analysis of the downtown homeless population.

Cortez Hill Family Shelter

San Diego Housing Commission in Negotiations with City to Administer Contract Assisting 150 Families

The YWCA operates the Cortez Hill Family Shelter, which provides 150 year-round beds in interim housing and supportive services to families with children. Families' access the program via the YWCA, San Diego Rescue Mission, Catholic Charities, Father Joe's Villages and Jewish Family Services; the program operates at capacity with a waiting list.

Neil Good Day Center

San Diego Housing Commission in Negotiations with City to Administer Contract Assisting 250 Adults Daily

Alpha Project operates the Neil Good Day Center to provide day services (mail pick up, showers, laundry, employment and housing connections, medical services) to approximately 250 adults daily.

(MORE)

**One-Stop Homeless Service Center
San Diego Housing Commission Coordinated Selection Committee**

On-site medical services combined with interim and permanent housing are key components of a comprehensive “one-stop” homeless service center being developed by the City of San Diego. The facility would include 150 interim beds and 75 permanent supportive housing units. Additional services such as job counseling, mental health screening, and drug and alcohol treatment would also be offered.

In January 2008, the San Diego City Council’s Land Use & Housing (LU&H) Committee convened a Permanent Homeless Facility Task Force whose purpose was to develop recommendations to identify and evaluate possible sites for a permanent emergency shelter, develop a list of the essential elements that such a facility would require, and provide a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the facility’s location and operations.

At the request of the LU&H, the San Diego Housing Commission coordinated the effort in collaboration with City staff and the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC). The 9-member task force included representatives from the Downtown Residents Group, East Village Community Action Network, United Way, Downtown Partnership, Corporation for Supportive Housing, CCDC, County of San Diego, City of San Diego, and San Diego Housing Commission.

The Housing Commission issued the RFP on April 3, 2009. After an extensive review process, a team consisting of the Affirmed Housing Group (AHG) and People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) was selected to develop and operate the facility that would be located at the World Trade Center downtown.

The program could start serving the homeless in approximately three years and preclude the need for the temporary downtown Winter Shelter program. The LU&H Committee approved the proposal on July 14, 2010, and the full Council directed staff to enter into exclusive negotiations with the development team on October 5th, 2010.

**Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)
San Diego Housing Commission Providing Rental Assistance for 285 Veterans**

Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), the VASH program allocates funds to local housing authorities to provide rental assistance, called housing vouchers, for homeless military veterans. Rental payments are made directly to landlords or building managers. Case management and clinical services are provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Annual funding to the Housing Commission exceeds \$2.7 million allowing the Housing Commission to issue 285 vouchers.

(MORE)

**Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP)
San Diego Housing Commission Administers the \$5.7 Million Program Providing Rental Assistance for 350 Households**

Funded by the 2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, the HPRP will increase its focus on diverting homeless people from the streets and providing temporary homes and services to assist them in getting back into stable living situations and maintaining their housing. Direct payments to landlords or building managers can fund security deposits, back rent, utility payments, and monthly rent. Individuals and families can receive up to a year of assistance.

**Project 25
San Diego Housing Commission Providing Rental Assistance for 25 Homeless Adults**

In a collaboration with United Way, the San Diego Housing Commission and County of San Diego, United Way has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify at least twenty-five (25) individuals who are responsible for the highest use (and cost) of public services related to impacts of homelessness. This project will provide funding for housing and wrap-around services with intensive case management support for those individuals. The Housing Commission will provide housing vouchers to the 25 persons identified. Rental assistance is paid directly to landlords or building managers.

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