



Families that receive federal rental assistance from the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) or reside in public housing units have opportunities to become more financially self-reliant through the programs of the SDHC Achievement Academy.

The SDHC Achievement Academy is a learning and resource center and computer lab located at SDHC's headquarters in Downtown San Diego. Its programs emphasize career planning, job skills, job placement and personal financial education.

The SDHC Achievement Academy is available at no cost to participating families.



*Sumayyah graduated from the Family Self-Sufficiency program and achieved her goal of becoming a pediatric nurse*

## Programs

### Family Self-Sufficiency

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) is a voluntary, two-year core program of the SDHC Achievement Academy. Rental assistance recipients who are identified as the "head of household" and household adults who meet certain criteria may participate in FSS.

Participants may earn up to \$10,000 in an interest-bearing escrow account as they achieve educational and employment-related objectives. They may use these funds as they wish upon graduation. To graduate, FSS program participants must achieve all of the goals in their career plan, no longer receive government cash assistance, and work at least 32 hours a week.

The average income of families when they begin FSS is \$12,000 and when they complete the program is \$34,000.



*Power of One Program - Back-to-School Supplies - 8.7.19*

### Power of One

Power of One is a yearlong SDHC Achievement Academy program for single parents receiving federal rental assistance who have children ages 16 and younger.

Participants receive access to career and financial planning resources and workshops, as well as support such as matched savings, back-to-school supplies, family-oriented holiday celebrations, flexible class schedules, and one-on-one case support.



## Bridges to Career Opportunities

Bridges to Career Opportunities helps individuals pursue certifications for careers as a Certified Nursing Assistant or in the fields of Customer Service or Information Technology. Program participants receive three weeks of instruction at the SDHC Achievement Academy on topics such as basic adult education, career and job training skills, workforce development, financial literacy and employment services, followed by an additional 12 to 16 weeks of specialized, tuition-free vocational training within their chosen field from partner organizations.

Participants may also receive assistance with childcare, transportation, uniforms and training supplies, as well as pursuing additional certifications and securing employment after completing the full program.

The SDHC Achievement Academy received a grant of \$190,000 over three years from the national Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), funded by the Citi Foundation, to provide Bridges to Career Opportunities.

## Additional SDHC Achievement Academy Courses & Workshops

### Work Readiness

- Interview preparation & techniques
- Introduction to job search
- Résumé & cover letter writing
- Small business development

### Financial Education

- Budgeting
- Checking & savings
- Credit & debt
- Taxes & earned income Tax credit

### Workforce Development

- Communication & conflict resolution
- Critical thinking & problem solving
- Customer service
- Motivation & personal accountability

[www.sdhc.org/achievement-academy](http://www.sdhc.org/achievement-academy) | [achievementacademy@sdhc.org](mailto:achievementacademy@sdhc.org) | (619) 578-7451  
1045 11th Avenue | San Diego, CA | 92101

## San Diego EnVision Center

The San Diego EnVision Center is a collaboration among the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of San Diego, SDHC and San Diego Workforce Partnership to promote financial self-reliance among households with low income.

The objectives of the SDHC Achievement Academy's programs align with the four areas of focus of the Envision Center:

- Economic Empowerment;
- Educational Advancement;
- Health & Wellness; and
- Character & Leadership Development

The EnVision Center allows SDHC to work with HUD and community organizations to expand the programs currently offered at the SDHC Achievement Academy to more San Diegans.

On December 18, 2019, HUD Regional Administrator Chris Patterson presented SDHC with a letter recognizing the work of the San Diego EnVision Center.