



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, and personal financial education.

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

For more information: [achievementacademy@sdhc.org](mailto:achievementacademy@sdhc.org) or (619) 578-7451



“I can't thank the Achievement Academy enough. I didn't get this kind of help anywhere else.”  
—Griselda

## 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.
- When they graduate from FSS, participants may use these funds as they wish.
- 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.

## SDHC Achievement Academy Courses & Workshops

The SDHC Achievement Academy is located at SDHC's downtown headquarters and offers classroom-style learning centers and computer lab.

**SDHC Achievement Academy**  
1045 11th Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92101

### Work Readiness

- Interview Preparation and Techniques
- Introduction to Job Search
- Resume and Cover Letter Writing
- Small Business Development

### Financial Education

- Budgeting
- Checking & Savings
- Credit & Debt
- Taxes & Earned Income Tax Credit

### Workforce Development

- Communication and Conflict Resolution
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Customer Service
- Motivation and Personal Accountability





## Power of One Program

Power of One is a year-long SDHC Achievement Academy program for single parents of children between the ages of 16 and under and who are currently receiving Federal rental assistance.

Participants receive access to career and financial planning resources and workshops.

In addition, Power of One provides participants with support such as matched savings, a back-to-school supplies, family-oriented holiday celebrations, flexible class schedules, and one-on-one case support.



Power of One Graduation Ceremony – 7.14.17

## 2Gen San Diego

In July 2016, the SDHC Achievement Academy was awarded a three-year, \$780,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to provide multigenerational services to low-income families.

With these funds, the SDHC Achievement Academy launched the 2Gen San Diego program.

This program serves 60 families with children up to age 8 who receive Federal rental assistance from SDHC and live in the City Heights neighborhood.

The 2Gen San Diego program provides participating families with opportunities in four key areas:

- Financial Stability
- Health & Wellness
- Education/Employment
- Social Capital

## SDHC Achievement Academy Helps Teen Find Career Path

Lesly's new full-time job as an airport security guard opens up opportunities for the 19-year-old, who dreams of a career as a police officer or a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent.

Lesly was hired after finishing a career-training program in security and protective services at San Diego Job Corps, a Federal program for low-income students.

She heard about the program through the SDHC Achievement Academy.

She completed all of the coursework in four months – an impressive feat given that the self-paced program's typical completion time is eight months to a year.

Lesly – who graduated from high school last year – said that before enrolling in the program, she felt like she wasn't making any progress toward her career goals of becoming a law enforcement officer.

The teenager said she is thankful for SDHC for helping her to find a career path and for providing her family a stable and affordable home. Lesly's family has received Federal rental assistance from SDHC since 2013.



“If it weren't for the San Diego Housing Commission, God knows where we would be right now.”  
–Lesly

