The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) is one of only 39 original Moving to Work (MTW) agencies out of approximately 3,200 public housing authorities in the nation.

With MTW status from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), SDHC has the flexibility to implement a variety of innovative, cost-effective approaches to provide housing assistance in the city of San Diego.

SDHC’s MTW initiatives provide:

- Opportunities for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance participants and public housing residents to become more financially self-reliant;
- Funding toward the creation and preservation of affordable housing for San Diegans experiencing homelessness; and
- Rental housing vouchers to address homelessness.

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.
- It provides opportunities for SDHC’s federal rental assistance participants, public housing residents and participants in certain homelessness programs to become more financially self-reliant—at no cost to them.
- Programs at the SDHC Achievement Academy emphasize career planning, job skills, job placement and personal financial education.

Path to Success

- Path to Success modifies the method used to determine the monthly rent payment amounts for federal rental assistance participants and public housing residents.
- This program also identifies rental assistance participants who are able to work (Work-Able) and encourages the financial self-reliance of Work-Able participants.
- Under Path to Success, minimum monthly rent payment amounts were set for Work-Able households and encourages households to increase their income.
- New minimum monthly rent payment amounts took effect on January 1, 2020.
Choice Communities Initiative

- SDHC’s Choice Communities Initiative provides families that receive rental assistance with more flexibility to choose to live in neighborhoods that offer more opportunities for transportation, schools, and employment.
- To increase housing opportunities and to continue to assist as many low-income families as possible, SDHC updated the payment standards that are used to determine the amount of rental assistance each family receives.
- Higher payment standards are set in areas identified as Choice and Enterprise Communities, where rental costs would typically be higher.

Homelessness Solutions

HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, SDHC’s homelessness action plan, is an effective, diverse funding and housing strategy to create permanent housing opportunities for homeless San Diegans.

This action plan is rooted in the national “Housing First” model of addressing homelessness — to provide appropriate housing options as quickly as possible, with as few requirements or conditions as possible, and access to supportive services, as needed.

The current phase of HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO launched on July 1, 2017. It builds on the accomplishment of the previous phases of this homelessness action plan, which launched on November 12, 2014.

November 12, 2014 – August 31, 2021:
- 9,800 housing opportunities created
- 523 additional new housing units pending completion