



The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) created the Path to Success initiative to encourage Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance families to become more financially self-reliant.

Path to Success modified the method used to determine the monthly rent payment amounts for families that receive rental assistance from SDHC and public housing residents. The new rent methodology was designed to motivate families to increase earnings.

In addition, Path to Success set minimum monthly rent payment amounts for participants who are identified as able to work (Work-Able). There is no minimum monthly rent payment amount for Elderly/Disabled families, which are households in which all adult family members are 55 or older, disabled, or a full-time student ages 18 to 23.

Path to Success is one of SDHC's innovative "Moving to Work" (MTW) initiatives and was implemented in Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014).

SDHC is one of only 39 public housing authorities in the nation, out of 3,400, to receive the MTW designation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



*The SDHC Achievement Academy helps Work-Able families become more financially self-reliant.*

## Work-Able Families

- Work-Able families are households with at least one adult who is under 55, not disabled, and not a full-time student ages 18-23.
- In Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018), SDHC's Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance program included 6,321 Work-Able households.
- The average annual earned income of all Work-Able families in Fiscal Year 2018 was \$25,260—which was 32 percent higher than in Fiscal Year 2013, the last year before Path to Success was implemented.

## Rent Payment Amounts

- Path to Success set minimum monthly rent payment amounts for Work-Able households.
- Beginning on January 1, 2020, the minimum monthly rent payment amounts for Work-Able households will increase to reflect increases in California's minimum wage.
- Work-Able families pay either the minimum monthly rent payment amount or the rent payment amount based on the family's annual income, whichever is greater.
- Adjusted annual income is separated into income ranges. The lower edge of the range is used to calculate the family's rent payment.

Work-Able Adults in the Household	Years 1-2 (July 1, 2013)	Years 3-7 (July 1, 2015)	Years 8+ (Jan. 1, 2020)
1	\$200	\$300	\$400
2+	\$350	\$500	\$650

- For example, the monthly rent payment amount for any family with adjusted annual income between \$25,000 and \$29,999 will be calculated using \$25,000 as their income.
- This allows Work-Able families to increase their income without being penalized.





## SDHC Achievement Academy

- SDHC guides Work-Able families to become more financially self-reliant through enrollment at the SDHC Achievement Academy.
- The SDHC Achievement Academy is a learning and resource center and computer lab with programs that emphasize career planning, job skills and personal financial education—at no cost to rental assistance participants and public housing residents.
- Family Self-Sufficiency is a core program, through which participants are able to earn up to \$10,000 in an interest-bearing escrow account based upon their educational and employment-related accomplishments.
- Since 2010, the SDHC Achievement Academy has served more than 5,600 individuals, including placing more than 1,100 in jobs.
- For more information about the SDHC Achievement Academy: call (619) 578-7451 or email [achievementacademy@sdhc.org](mailto:achievementacademy@sdhc.org)



*SDHC Achievement Academy Job Fair – March 23, 2017*

## Hardship Policy

- Families may apply for a temporary hardship exemption from the minimum monthly rent payment amounts.
- If approved, households **MUST** participate in SDHC Achievement Academy “work readiness” programs for the duration of the hardship period.