March 27, 2019

Message from the President & CEO

For the fourth consecutive year, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC), San Diego’s landmark homelessness action plan, received the ‘HOUSING FIRST’ National Award for developing permanent supportive housing units, including units currently under construction. This award recognizes SDHC’s commitment to ending homelessness by creating permanent supportive housing for those experiencing homelessness.

In 2018, SDHC opened 376 permanent supportive housing units, such as San Diego’s Temporary Bridge Shelters. These shelters offer a safe, centralized location for men, women, and children experiencing homelessness to receive temporary housing and appropriate services needed to expedite placement into permanent supportive housing. The shelter for single adults, which is operated by Alpha Project, provides up to 324 beds. The City’s three Temporary Bridge Shelters offer a total of up to 674 beds and provide a model for the rest of the country.

At the conclusion of his tour, Secretary Carson said the Temporary Bridge Shelter could be a permanent place for future residents, consistent with Housing First’s principles. Secretary Carson also noted that the shelter is a positive example of collaboration between local and federal governments.

The creation of new permanent supportive housing is one of the many programs of San Diego’s landmark homelessness action plan, HOUSING FIRST. The City has invested $416 million in new permanent supportive housing within the last five years and is on track to reach or exceed the plan’s overall $685 million goal in less than five years for San Diegans experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

Since the initial launch of HOUSING FIRST – the Housing Conference, an educational event for housing professionals, by Nan McKay and Associates, a national affordable housing industry organization, during a San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) Board meeting in March 2015.

Established in 1979, the San Diego Housing Commission provides a variety of award-winning affordable housing programs and services that stimulate the local economy, revitalize neighborhoods, and impact the lives of low-income and homeless San Diegans.

I invite you to read more about these and additional recent SDHC activities.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Gentry
President & Chief Executive Officer

SDHC also welcomed The Chartered Institute of Housing South East East International Housing Group from the United Kingdom for a visit to learn about our programs to create and preserve affordable housing and address homelessness.

Their visit included a bus tour of SDHC affordable housing partnership developments, as well as a forum with SDHC senior leaders and the San Diego Homeless National Alliance, during which they discussed their respective programs to create and preserve affordable rental housing and address homelessness.

After their initial stop in Los Angeles, the group met in San Diego with SDHC senior leaders to discuss our respective programs to create and preserve affordable housing and address homelessness.

I invite your comments.

Read the News Release