



April 6, 2020

As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic has evolved rapidly in a matter of weeks, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) has developed and implemented many actions to maintain stable housing for the households SDHC's programs serve.

SDHC's actions also have provided for the continuing health and well-being of SDHC employees, as they continue to fulfill SDHC's responsibilities to the public and provide essential housing assistance to families, seniors, veterans and additional individuals with low income and/or experiencing homelessness.



Richard C. Gentry SDHC President & CEO

I want to thank U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, California Governor Gavin Newsom, San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, San Diego City Council President Georgette Gómez, the entire City Council, County of San Diego Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, the entire County Board of Supervisors and the SDHC Board of Commissioners for their leadership during this public health crisis.

My thanks also to the public health officials, medical professionals and first responders who are working tirelessly to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

In addition, SDHC's response to COVID-19 reflects our staff's ongoing dedication and commitment every day to provide high-quality service to our customers.

SDHC has prepared a [COVID-19 Actions Report](#) of all of the actions the agency has taken to date to address COVID-19 and its effects.

I invite you to read more below about a few of these actions.



Via Las Cumbres SDHC-owned/managed Affordable Housing

SDHC Hardship Policies and Programs

SDHC implemented new policies and programs on March 30, 2020, to assist families in SDHC's programs who are experiencing financial hardships related to COVID-19:

- SDHC's federal rental assistance program is utilizing revised criteria for families currently in the program to report decreases in income due to COVID-19, which may enable SDHC to temporarily provide a higher amount of rental assistance to these households.
- SDHC will not terminate anyone from the federal rental assistance program, unless they engage in violent or criminal behavior or pose a threat to the safety of others in their neighborhood.
- Residents at SDHC's affordable rental housing properties who do not currently receive federal rental assistance can receive rent relief through a new hardship program. All or part of the rent will be forgiven for up to four months for eligible households.

[Read the Policies](#)

Temporary Moratorium on Evictions

On March 18, 2020, SDHC implemented a temporary moratorium on evictions for the 3,732 affordable rental housing units owned or managed by SDHC, including our nonprofit affiliate, Housing Development Partners (HDP), due to nonpayment of rent because of the financial effects of COVID-19.

This action supported San Diego City Council President Georgette Gómez's call on March 16, 2020, for emergency action citywide to temporarily ban evictions for residents affected by COVID-19. With the support of Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, the City Council unanimously approved a temporary ban on evictions on March 25, 2020.

SDHC's temporary moratorium will remain in effect until the end of the City of San Diego's temporary ban on evictions related to COVID-19, which continues until May 31, 2020, unless the City Council extends it.

[Read about the Moratorium](#)

Coordinated Approach to Address Homelessness

As the administrator of the City of San Diego's (City) homeless shelters and services programs, SDHC partnered with many local agencies to support a system-wide coordinated approach to further help sheltered and unsheltered individuals remain healthy during the global pandemic.

SDHC worked with the City, County of San Diego, Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) and partner agencies and organizations.

These efforts included opening larger areas of Golden Hall at the San Diego Concourse near the City Administration Building and parts of the San Diego Convention Center in phases for individuals experiencing homelessness. This creates more space to serve people experiencing homelessness and allow for adequate physical distancing within current shelter facilities.

Individuals experiencing homelessness began moving into the Convention Center on April 1, 2020. SDHC will provide staff on-site daily at the Convention Center to address questions, coordinate services, build relationships and identify solutions, as needed.

[Visit the RTFH Website](#)

SDHC Staff: Social Distancing and Telecommuting

Many SDHC employees, including those identified as "high risk," as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, began working from home on March 16, 2020.

On the evening of March 19, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order, directing California residents to stay home.

SDHC immediately informed all employees to work from home, with a follow-up notice the next day to continue to work from home until further notice unless they are identified as "critical" to the continuity of SDHC's operations and services.

These actions were in addition to several precautionary steps SDHC had taken in the preceding days to help protect staff and prevent the spread of COVID-19.



[SDHC Website](#)



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We're About People

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.

