City of San Diego COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance

The City of San Diego, in partnership with the San Diego Housing Commission, offers rental assistance to City residents impacted by the COVID-19 crisis through the San Diego City Council's COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program. This program is designed to prevent the loss of housing for eligible low-income households suffering from a loss of income due to COVID-19.

On June 8, 2020, the City Council designated $15.1 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding in the City's Fiscal Year 2021 budget to support this program. SDHC and City of San Diego staff work with the offices of Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer and City Councilmember Chris Ward to create a COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program for City residents, which SDHC will administer, as well as a new study SDHC published that provides a blueprint for the City of San Diego COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

To maintain social distancing during COVID-19, the groundbreaking for more than 190 new affordable apartments was celebrated through a video conference. To gradually emerge from the unprecedented safety measures implemented due to COVID-19, the San Diego Housing Commission announced the report at a news conference, along with City Heights Community Development Corporation and Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans. The City Council voted 8-0, with one Councilmember absent, to request that the City Council's Smart Growth & Land Use Committee prioritize affordable housing preservation in its 2018 work plan. In 2019, SDHC issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Affordable Housing Preservation Study and analyzed the preservation of affordable housing in the City of San Diego. The City Council received the report at a hearing held in October 2019, with the City Heights Community Development Corporation and Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans.

Under Council President Georgette Gómez's leadership, the City Council's Smart Growth & Land Use Committee for further action. In 2020, SDHC conducted a screening of roughly 1,000 households that applied for a new program called the Landlord Urged to Rent to San Diegans Experiencing Homelessness (LEAP) and two managers' units. The adjacent Mid-City Senior Apartments, funded by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HOME Plus grant, was developed in 2008 with partnerships between the City of San Diego and SANDAG. The City Council amended the LEAP program to provide an additional $2 million in federal funds to the LEAP program.

On April 21, 2020, SDHC awarded a loan of more than $6.7 million to support the development of Mid-City Senior Apartments, funded by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HOME Plus grant, which includes one manager's unit.

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On June 16, 2020, the City Council designated $15.1 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding in the City's Fiscal Year 2021 budget to support this program. SDHC and City of San Diego staff work with the offices of Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer and City Councilmember Chris Ward to create a COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program for City residents, which SDHC will administer, as well as a new study SDHC published that provides a blueprint for the City of San Diego COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

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