



June 16, 2020

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and as the City of San Diego gradually emerges from the unprecedented safety measures implemented due to COVID-19, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) continues to provide essential housing assistance to families with low income or experiencing homelessness.

The San Diego City Council approved the creation of a new COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program for City residents, which SDHC would administer, as well as a new study SDHC published that provides 10 recommended strategies to help preserve the affordability for thousands of rental housing units in the City in the decades to come.



Richard C. Gentry
SDHC President & CEO

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



COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program
News Conference
June 2, 2020

City of San Diego COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance

The San Diego City Council voted 8-0, with one Councilmember absent, to request that 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 that SDHC would administer.

I joined City Councilmember Ward, who proposed the program, City Councilmember Monica Montgomery, and representatives from the Southern California Rental Housing Association and Unite Here Local 30, the San Diego hotel and food service workers union, for a news conference to announce the proposed program before the City Council's June 2 meeting.

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.

City Councilmember Ward's proposed program would provide up to \$4,000 each to help eligible low-income households pay their rent, including past-due rent and upcoming rent payments.

[Watch the News Conference Video](#)



"Preserving Affordable Housing in the City of San Diego"
News Conference
May 28, 2020

SDHC Affordable Housing Preservation Study

SDHC released a new report, "[Preserving Affordable Housing in the City of San Diego](#)," that analyzes rental housing in the City of San Diego and recommends 10 strategies to help keep thousands of rental housing units affordable for low-income families.

City Council President Georgette Gómez, City Councilmember Monica Montgomery and I announced the report at a news conference, along with with City Heights Community Development Corporation and Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans. The City Council approved the report and referred it to the City Council's Land Use and Housing Committee for further action.

Under Council President Gómez's leadership, the City Council's Smart Growth & Land Use Committee prioritized affordable housing preservation in its 2018 work plan. In 2019, SDHC hired a Housing Preservation Coordinator and began the study that resulted in the preservation report.

[Read the News Release](#)



Mid-City Family and Senior Apartments
Virtual Groundbreaking
June 10, 2020

Virtual Groundbreaking for More Than 190 New Affordable Apartments

To maintain social distancing during COVID-19, the groundbreaking for more than 190 new affordable apartments was celebrated through a video conference.

SDHC Executive Vice President & Chief of Staff Jeff Davis joined California State Assemblymember Todd Gloria, San Diego City Council President Georgette Gómez, County of San Diego Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, developer Chelsea Investment Corporation and additional partners for this special event.

Mid-City Family Apartments will provide 77 apartments for families earning up to 60 percent of the San Diego Area Median Income (AMI) and one manager's unit. The adjacent Mid-City Senior Apartments will consist of 115 apartments for seniors with income up to 60 percent of AMI and two managers' units.

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 Investment Partnerships Program funds awarded to the City of San Diego (City) and the City's Affordable Housing Fund, both of which SDHC administers. SDHC also authorized the issuance of more than \$46 million in tax-exempt Multifamily Housing Revenue Notes toward the creation of these apartments for both seniors and families. The City Council, in its role as the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego, approved the notes.

[Read the News Release](#)



San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer
Daily COVID-19 News Media Briefing
April 21, 2020

Landlords Urged to Rent to San Diegans Experiencing Homelessness

San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer invited me join him at his daily COVID-19 news briefing on April 21 to urge landlords to participate in SDHC's [Landlord Engagement and Assistance Program \(LEAP\)](#).

LEAP offers incentives to landlords who rent units in the City of San Diego to San Diegans experiencing homelessness.

One of the landlords who currently participates in LEAP, David Antczak, shared the positive experience he has had with the program.

This call to action supports "Operation Shelter to Home," a new, system-wide, coordinated plan to further help sheltered and unsheltered individuals remain healthy during the global COVID-19 pandemic. This is a partnership among the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, the region's cities, the County of San Diego, SDHC and homeless service providers.

[Watch the briefing](#)

HUD Awards More Family Unification Program Vouchers to SDHC

SDHC received an award of 75 additional federal rental housing vouchers in April from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that will help reunite children with their families and assist youth exiting foster care who experience homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.

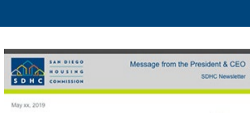
Part of the Family Unification Program (FUP), these 75 vouchers have an estimated annual value of \$997,704 and bring SDHC's total number of FUP vouchers to 175.

SDHC partners with the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) and the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) and Child Welfare Services (CWS) to identify families and youth who qualify for the FUP program.

[Read the News Release](#)



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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.

