



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

April 8, 2020

Honorable U.S. Representative Susan Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
1214 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Davis,

As Congress continues to work toward adopting additional legislation to address the economic impacts of COVID-19, I urge you to support substantial additional funding for public housing authorities, including the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC), that provide essential assistance to families with low income and/or experiencing homelessness.

SDHC joins the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Public Housing Authorities Directors Association, and the Moving to Work Collaborative in thanking Congress for the nearly \$3 billion for housing assistance through the CARES Act; however, this emergency funding amount is insufficient to meet the needs of public authorities due to COVID-19.

SDHC provides federal rental assistance to more than 15,000 households in the City of San Diego, the eighth-largest city in the country and second-largest in California. SDHC, including its nonprofit affiliate, Housing Development Partners, also owns and/or manages more than 3,700 affordable rental housing units in the City of San Diego.

Many of the San Diego residents SDHC's programs assist are employed in industries especially hard hit by the COVID-19 public health emergency because of orders for residents to stay home, such as hospitality and restaurants. As a result, SDHC anticipates many families will report decreases in income that will reduce the amount they pay toward rent and thus require additional federal funding for SDHC to provide a higher level of rental assistance.

SDHC also anticipates experiencing a decline in rental income from the properties the agency owns or manages during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

To further assist rental assistance participants, SDHC is not terminating anyone from the rental assistance program during the public health emergency. SDHC also implemented on March 18, 2020, its own temporary moratorium on evictions from its rental housing units for nonpayment of

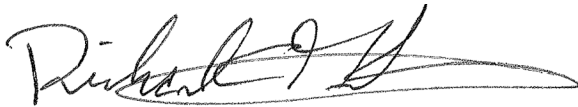
rent resulting from lost wages due to COVID-19. San Diego City Council President Georgette Gómez on March 16, 2020, called for a citywide temporary moratorium on such evictions, and with the support of Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, the City Council unanimously adopted the citywide moratorium on March 25.

To safeguard SDHC staff while continuing to provide housing assistance during this public health emergency, SDHC is incurring additional expenses to enable SDHC staff to work from home and to provide personal protective equipment to staff who perform essential job responsibilities that cannot be performed remotely, such as maintenance technicians or inspectors. Additional funding is needed to defray these unanticipated, but critical, expenditures.

Taking action to enable San Diegans and families across the country to remain stably housed is essential. This is especially true to help prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

I implore Congress to provide the funding needed for public housing agencies to ensure housing stability for financially vulnerable families at this crucial time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Gentry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO
San Diego Housing Commission