



September 1, 2020

With the COVID-19 pandemic now in its sixth month, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) continues to act to provide essential housing assistance to individuals and families with low income or experiencing homelessness during these challenging times.

The State of California informed the City of San Diego and SDHC that it has reserved funds for SDHC to use toward the purchase of a hotel to transform it into permanent housing units with supportive services in San Diego. The County of San Diego allocated funds for the supportive services.



Richard C. Gentry SDHC President & CEO

I am also pleased to share with you updates about our City of San Diego COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program, including a recently announced private grant that will enable the program to help more families.

The grand openings of two new SDHC-financed affordable housing developments also provide a reason to celebrate because close to 150 individuals and families now have a place to call home that they can afford.

I invite you to read more about these activities below.



Supportive Services Funding News Conference County of San Diego Administration Building August 24, 2020

State, County Reserve Funds to Transform Hotel into Permanent Supportive Housing

With the goal of creating additional housing units for San Diegans experiencing homelessness, the City of San Diego and SDHC were notified Tuesday, August 25, 2020, that the State of California has reserved \$27.7 million in Project Homekey Program funds for purchasing a hotel to transform it into permanent housing units with supportive services in San Diego.

Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer and I announced the State's funding in a joint news release.

In addition, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on August 25, 2020, to approve Supervisor Nathan Fletcher's request to authorize \$5.4 million to fund essential supportive services for the individuals who would reside at the property after SDHC acquires it, as well as other potential projects.

SDHC's Executive Vice President & Chief of Staff Jeff Davis joined Supervisor Fletcher, Mayor Faulconer and San Diego City Councilmember Chris Ward at a news conference on August 24, 2020, to urge the County to take this action.

Residents of the hotel property would include individuals currently staying at Operation Shelter to Home at the San Diego Convention Center, which opened on April 1, 2020, as a temporary shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic that serves approximately 1,200 per day.

[Read the News Release](#)

[Watch the News Conference](#)



COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program Online Application Portal

Applications Accepted Through August 7, 2020

Thousands Apply for City's COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Within the next two weeks, SDHC will begin making one-time payments through the City of San Diego's COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program to help individuals and families with low income who experience financial hardship due to COVID-19.

Payments directly to landlords on behalf of qualifying tenants are expected to continue through September and potentially into October.

This program will provide up to \$4,000 per qualifying household to help pay past-due or upcoming rent. The City Council unanimously allocated \$15.1 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to support the program.

SDHC, which administers this program for the City, received more than 8,300 applications from City residents during the three-week application period for the program.

A preliminary review of these applications identified that more than 5,200 applicants met the eligibility criteria for the program. This far exceeds the approximately 3,400 households that can receive help based on the funds allocated to the program, demonstrating the significant need for this help.

[Read More](#)

SDHC Awarded Economic Relief Grant for COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance

Additional low-income individuals and families experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 will receive one-time emergency help to pay their rent thanks to a \$100,000 grant from Bank of America to SDHC for the City of San Diego's COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Bank of America's generous financial support will provide important stability for these individuals and families who are struggling financially because of COVID-19 and need help to remain in their homes.

I thank and commend Bank of America for their support to address this community need.

Philanthropic donations like this supplement the \$15.1 million in federal CARES Act funding the City Council allocated to this program, so more families and individuals can receive the help they need as the global COVID-19 pandemic continues. Restrictions on the use of CARES Act funds do not preclude private donations that support this program.

[Read the News Release](#)



65 Affordable Apartments for Families

I joined San Diego County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, San Diego City Councilmember Monica Montgomery and developer National Community Renaissance (National CORE) for the grand opening of a new SDHC-financed development that provides 65 affordable apartments for families.

Of these units at Encanto Village, eight are set aside for veterans who experienced homelessness.

Through SDHC's homelessness action plan, HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, SDHC awarded federal rental housing vouchers to help these veterans pay their rent and a development loan of more than \$1 million from federal and City funds SDHC administers.

Including these eight units at Encanto Village, HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO has created more than 9,200 housing solutions in five and a half years for San Diegans experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

[Read the News Release](#)



Motel Transformed Into Housing

Benson Place, an SDHC-financed development with Father Joe's Villages, transformed a former motel into 82 new permanent supportive housing units for San Diegans who experienced homelessness.

SDHC Vice Chair of the Board Ryan Clumpner joined Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer and Father Joe's Villages President & CEO Deacon Jim Vargas on-site for the grand opening, which also featured video remarks from County of San Diego Supervisor Greg Cox and City Councilmember Vivian Moreno.

The apartments at Benson Place are among more than 9,200 housing solutions created since November 12, 2014, through HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, SDHC's homelessness action plan, for San Diegans experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

SDHC awarded 82 federal rental housing vouchers and a development loan of more than \$4.8 million from federal and City funds SDHC administers.

[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.

