

October 29, 2020

The San Diego Housing Commission's (SDHC) Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report, published this morning online, includes highlights of how the agency has met the challenges of the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic.

I'm pleased to share with you this multimedia report, which includes embedded videos, stories of the people we serve, and graphics with data about the positive impact SDHC has on households with low income or experiencing homelessness in the City of San Diego.



Richard C. Gentry  
SDHC President & CEO

In Fiscal Year 2020, we helped more than 16,000 households pay their rent. We partnered with developers who completed more than 1,000 affordable rental housing units and who have more than 2,900 affordable rental housing units in progress. Our collaborative homelessness programs helped to provide housing solutions for thousands of San Diegans.

My thanks to Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, San Diego City Council President Georgette Gómez and the City Council, SDHC Chair of the Board Stefanie Benvenuto and the Board of Commissioners, and all of the organizations that work with us throughout the community for their leadership and support.

I am also honored to work with the professional and dedicated staff at SDHC, who have continued our programs seamlessly as the majority of our staff work remotely during the pandemic.

In addition, SDHC continues to implement innovative solutions for affordable housing and homelessness in our current fiscal year.

I invite you to read more below about our recent activities.



City Council Approval of Hotel Purchases Requested  
News Conference  
October 12, 2020

## SDHC Hotel Purchases Approved to Create Housing

SDHC's proposal to purchase two hotels to create 332 permanent housing units with supportive services for San Diegans experiencing homelessness received unanimous approval from the San Diego City Council on October 13, 2020.

These properties have the capacity to provide housing for as many as 400 individuals currently experiencing homelessness. Residents will have access to on-site supportive services.

Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, City Council President Georgette Gómez, City Councilmember Chris Ward and I spoke at a news conference the day before the City Council meeting to support the purchase of these hotels.

The State of California's Project Homekey program awarded \$37.7 million to support SDHC's acquisition of these hotels. SDHC has committed 332 federal rental housing vouchers to help pay the rent for the residents who previously experienced homelessness.

[Read the News Release](#)



Coordinated Street Outreach Program  
News Conference  
October 26, 2020

## Transforming Homelessness Outreach in San Diego

The San Diego City Council approved SDHC's recommendation for a new approach for reaching out to San Diegans experiencing homelessness to help connect them to services and housing resources in a client-centered, housing-focused way.

I was pleased to join Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, City Council President Georgette Gómez, City Councilmembers Monica Montgomery Steppe and Chris Ward, and People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) San Diego for a news conference about the new program the day before the City Council vote.

The program marks a new approach to conducting homelessness outreach in the City of San Diego and addresses gaps in the existing system, while leveraging and enhancing outreach resources citywide.

The new Coordinated Street Outreach Program will implement a neighborhood-based approach, which involves a tailored response based on the unique needs and demographics of the community's unsheltered population. This approach also includes proactive contacts with local residents, business owners and civic organizations.

[Read the News Release](#)



The Link Affordable Housing Development  
October 20, 2020  
Photo from Affirmed Housing

## Grand Opening Video Celebrates New Affordable Housing

In a sign of our current times, the SDHC partnership development known as The Link celebrated its grand opening with a video produced by the developer, Affirmed Housing Group.

California State Assemblymember Todd Gloria, Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, City Councilmember Chris Ward, County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, SDHC Chair of the Board Stefanie Benvenuto, and Affirmed Housing Group participated in this special grand opening video.

The Link provides 86 affordable studio apartments, of which 72 units are permanent supportive housing units for San Diegans who previously experienced homelessness.

SDHC awarded 72 federal rental housing vouchers to The Link through our homelessness action plan, [HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO](#), to help pay the rent for residents who previously experienced homelessness.

The apartments at The Link are among the approximately 9,700 housing solutions HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO has created in less than six years for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

[Read the News Release](#)



San Diego City College  
Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources (PEER)  
October 13, 2020

## Groundbreaking Collaboration to Develop Homelessness Workforce

A first-of-its-kind collaboration between SDHC and San Diego City College provides specialized education, training and job placement assistance to develop the workforce needed for programs and services that help San Diegans experiencing homelessness.

The first "Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources" (PEER) course began October 13, 2020, with in-person learning by live video conference because of safety precautions due to COVID-19.

SDHC is funding the PEER program with a budget of approximately \$187,000, while San Diego City College also is leveraging existing San Diego Community College District resources.

[Read the News Release](#)

## Award Honors Collaborative Approach to Homelessness During COVID-19

A collaborative initiative to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among San Diegans experiencing homelessness while helping them obtain permanent or longer-term housing was honored with a "Grand Golden Watchdog" award from the San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA).

SDCTA's Golden Watchdog awards recognize the best in local government spending and decision-making in San Diego County.

The award-winning initiative, known as Operation Shelter to Home, launched on April 1, 2020, with a temporary shelter at the San Diego Convention Center during the COVID-19 pandemic that serves approximately 1,000 people per day. It has helped more than 700 individuals obtain permanent or longer-term housing since it opened.

Operation Shelter to Home is a collaboration among the City of San Diego, the County of San Diego, SDHC, the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH), the San Diego Convention Center and homeless service providers.

## SDHC Procurement Department Earns National Recognition

For the fourth consecutive year, SDHC's Procurement Department has received an Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Procurement Institute, Inc.

This national award honors organizations that demonstrate excellence by obtaining a high score based on standardized criteria designed to measure innovation, professionalism, productivity, e-procurement, and leadership attributes of the procurement organization.



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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, revitalizes neighborhoods, and impact the lives of low-income and homeless San Diegans.

