



Rent Affordability Calculator “How To” Guide for Participants

The San Diego Housing Commission’s (SDHC) website includes a Rent Affordability Calculator.

Families that receive federal Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance from SDHC can use this calculator to help determine if they can afford the rent of a specific rental housing unit with their voucher.

To use this calculator, you will need the Max Rent Notice Form from SDHC. The Max Rent Notice Form is part of the Request for Tenancy Approval (RFTA) packet that SDHC provides to families in the rental assistance program.

Step 1

Visit www.sdhc.org to access the Rent Affordability Calculator. From the main menu, click on **Housing Opportunities**, then click on **Help With Your Rent**, and then click on **Rent Affordability Calculator**.

Step 2

Use the information from the *Max Rent Notice Form* to complete the **Family Population**, **Voucher Size** and **Household Annual Income** fields on the calculator.

- Select the **Family Population** type that matches what is listed on your Max Rent Notice Form. Use the drop-down menu to make your selection.
- Select the **Voucher Size** that matches what is listed on your Max Rent Notice Form. Use the drop-down menu to make your selection.

Enter your household’s income into the Household Annual Income field on the calculator. The household annual income should match what is listed on your *Max Rent Notice Form*. Do not use special characters. (For example, if your household income is \$15,000, type “15000” in the field.).



Step 3	Enter the requested rent amount set by landlord at property where you are interested in living. Do not use special characters. (For example, if your household income is \$15,000, type “15000” in the field.)
Step 4	Use the drop-down menu to select the bedroom size of the rental unit where you are interested in living.
Step 5	Enter the ZIP Code for the rental unit where you are interested in living.
Step 6	In the drop-down menu, select YES if you, the tenant, will be paying for water. Select NO if the landlord is paying for the water.
Step 7	Click on the “Calculate” button to get the results.

Based on the information you provide, you will receive a response as to whether you are **eligible** or **not eligible** for the requested rent amount.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The **Maximum Rent Household Can Afford** states the highest rent amount your household can afford based on the information provided in the calculator. If the landlord’s requested rent is higher than this amount, your household would not be considered eligible for the requested rent amount.

The results of the SDHC Rent Affordability Calculator are not guaranteed.

SDHC is required to evaluate the proposed rent. SDHC determines whether or not the rent the landlord requested meets maximum affordability rent thresholds for your household.

After SDHC reviews the RFTA packet, SDHC will send a lease approval letter to the landlord, confirming the contract rent of the rental unit.

If you have any questions about your eligibility, please contact your assigned caseworker.

If you need one-on-one help to use the Rent Affordability Calculator, contact SDHC’s Mobility Counseling Program at 619-578-7131 or mobility@sdhc.org.