



December 8, 2020

During this holiday season and as we look ahead to a new year, I am especially mindful of the individuals and families the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) serves, in collaboration with many organizations, in the City of San Diego.

Working together this year, we have continued to create solutions to address the City's affordable housing and homelessness challenges amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

A recent news conference highlighted Operation Shelter to Home, a collaborative initiative that provided temporary shelter and helped secure permanent or longer-term housing for San Diegans experiencing homelessness.

SDHC also has completed its purchase of two hotels to create hundreds of new units of permanent housing with supportive services for individuals who experienced homelessness.

In addition, we've been awarded additional rental housing vouchers to assist families with adults who have disabilities, and SDHC received national recognition for our rehabilitation of a single-room occupancy property.

I invite you to read more about these activities below.

On behalf of SDHC, I wish you a safe and happy holiday season and a Happy New Year.



Richard C. Gentry SDHC President & CEO



Operation Shelter to Home Update News Conference December 1, 2020

## Initiative on Track to Help Nearly 1,100 Individuals Obtain Housing

By the end of 2020, the collaborative initiative Operation Shelter to Home is anticipated to have helped secure permanent or longer-term housing for close to 1,100 San Diegans experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I joined San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, Mayor-Elect Todd Gloria, City Councilmember and State Assemblymember-Elect Chris Ward, and organizations working together on this initiative for a news conference to update the status of the program.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, SDHC, Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH), the San Diego Convention Center, Father Joe's Villages, Alpha Project, Veterans Village of San Diego and additional service providers collaborated to launch Operation Shelter to Home.

This initiative's objectives are to protect the health of San Diegans experiencing homelessness during the pandemic and help them obtain housing as quickly as possible.

Operation Shelter to Home temporarily repurposed parts of the San Diego Convention Center as a shelter for single adults experiencing homelessness in the City to allow for proper physical distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

[Read More](#)



Permanent Housing for San Diegans Experiencing Homelessness Two Hotels Purchased November 25, 2020

## SDHC Acquires Hotels to Create Permanent Housing

Residents will begin moving this week into permanent rental housing units SDHC created by purchasing two hotels.

SDHC completed the purchases on November 25, 2020, and has been preparing the properties for move-ins since then.

This is a game-changing opportunity to provide hundreds of San Diegans a path out of shelters and off the streets and into permanent rental homes with supportive services.

These properties provide 332 furnished units in good condition. Many of the households who will move into these units are residing in temporary housing through Operation Shelter to Home, which includes the temporary shelter at the San Diego Convention Center and other locations.

SDHC worked closely with the City of San Diego to identify these properties for purchase.

SDHC staff have been working with individuals residing at the Convention Center and others staying at hotels and other shelters, as well as unsheltered individuals, through the Housing Navigation Team implemented during Operation Shelter to Home to identify residents for these properties.

SDHC committed 332 federal rental housing vouchers to help the residents at these properties pay their rent, and SDHC is contracting with experienced service providers to give residents access to on-site supportive services.

State of California Project Homekey funds totaling \$37.7 million were an essential source of funds for these purchases.

Additional funds from SDHC, the City of San Diego, and a loan from Chase Bank made these purchases possible.



### 100 Mainstream Vouchers Awarded to SDHC

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded 100 new federal rental housing vouchers from the Mainstream Voucher program to SDHC.

These vouchers help pay rent for households with low income or experiencing homelessness that include adults between the ages of 18 and 61 who have disabilities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of having a home you can afford, especially for vulnerable populations, including adults with disabilities.

These additional housing vouchers will provide essential rental assistance for these households.

HUD previously has awarded SDHC 108 Mainstream Vouchers in the last two years.

Overall, SDHC helps pay rent for more than 16,000 households with low income in the City of San Diego.

[Read the News Release](#)



### SDHC Earns National Housing Award

SDHC received a prestigious Award of Excellence last month from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) for the rehabilitation of New Palace Hotel.

New Palace was transformed into 79 affordable studio apartments for seniors who experienced homelessness or were at risk of homelessness.

This was the first major renovation of New Palace in approximately 25 years.

SDHC also provided 79 rental housing vouchers to help New Palace residents pay their rent. Residents have access to supportive services from the nonprofit organization Serving Seniors.

NAHRO Awards of Excellence recognize "outstanding innovation and achievement in housing and community development programs throughout the country." Only 21 programs or projects nationwide received NAHRO Awards of Excellence this year.

[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.

