

March 16, 2021

The launch of a new City of San Diego program will give qualifying low-income families certainty that their past-due rent and utility bills will be paid and the stability of knowing they will not lose their rental home because of the financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, City Councilmember Vivian Moreno, Chicano Federation CEO Nancy Maldonado and San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) Senior Vice President of Rental Assistance and Workforce Development Azucena Valladolid spoke at a news conference to announce the start of the City of San Diego COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program.



Richard C. Gentry
SDHC President & CEO

SDHC worked closely with Mayor Gloria to develop the program, which SDHC administers. The San Diego City Council approved the program on February 22, 2021.

This program helps pay past-due, unpaid rent and utilities for City residents with low income who experience financial hardship due to COVID-19.

More than \$83 million is available through this program to help qualifying households. These resources consist of federal Coronavirus Relief Funds the U.S. Department of Treasury awarded directly to the City of San Diego (City) and federal funds allocated to the City through the State of California's Coronavirus Relief Fund, as approved in California State Senate Bill (SB) 91.

SDHC is contracting with 10 community-based organizations, including the Chicano Federation, and 2-1-1 San Diego to help San Diego residents complete their online applications, including households without internet access.

In addition, SDHC has conducted an extensive community outreach campaign to raise awareness of the program among City residents.



City of San Diego COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program
Program Launch News Conference
March 15, 2021

[Read the News Release](#)



Coordinated Street Outreach Program
News Conference
March 10, 2021

New Approach to Homelessness Outreach

A new neighborhood-based, person-centered approach to homelessness outreach is being implemented in the City of San Diego through a program SDHC administers.

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria announced this outreach initiative at a news conference with City Council President Jennifer Campbell, San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless CEO Tamera Kohler, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) San Diego Chief Regional Officer Jonathan Castillo, and me.

PATH San Diego operates the program through a contract with SDHC. Outreach teams from PATH focus on developing effective connections with individuals and families experiencing homelessness and helping them connect with services and permanent housing.

The program includes a Mobile Homelessness Response Team and a Rapid Response Team.

The program incorporates best practices for outreach that are part of the [City of San Diego's Community Action Plan on Homelessness](#). SDHC contracted with Corporation for Supportive Housing to develop the City's action plan.

[Read the Mayor's News Release](#)



Operation Shelter to Home
News Conference
March 5, 2021

Reactivating City Homeless Shelters

The City of San Diego (City) announced a phased approach to reactivate the City's Bridge Shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness and conclude Operation Shelter to Home at the San Diego Convention Center.

I joined San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chair Nathan Fletcher, Regional Task Force on the Homeless CEO Tamera Kohler and San Diego Convention Center President and CEO Clifford "Rip" Rippetoe for this announcement.

City Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn, whose district includes Downtown San Diego, also participated in the news conference.

The City and SDHC have worked together and with service providers, with input from County public health officials, to make sure the City's Bridge Shelters are reconfigured to accommodate social distancing.

Those staying at the shelter at the Convention Center primarily will move to the City's Bridge Shelters. Some individuals will also be transitioned to open beds at interim shelters that were reconfigured for greater physical distancing and COVID-19 prevention last year, as well as a recently opened shelter for single women.

Operation Shelter to Home temporarily repurposed parts of the San Diego Convention Center as a shelter for single adults experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has helped more than 1,270 individuals obtain permanent or longer-term housing since it launched on April 1, 2020.

[Read the Mayor's News Release](#)

Groundbreaking for Apartments for Families Experiencing Homelessness

The developer of an SDHC partnership development that will create 64 units of permanent affordable rental housing with supportive services for families experiencing homelessness announced the project's groundbreaking in San Diego's San Ysidro community.

The development, currently known as San Ysidro Permanent Supportive Housing, will include one-, two-, and three-bedroom units affordable to households with income up to 30 percent of San Diego's Area Median Income (AMI) – currently \$34,650 per year for a family of four.

SDHC invested a \$4.2 million loan toward the \$33.7 million total development cost and awarded 64 federal Project-Based Housing Vouchers to help residents pay their rent. SDHC's loan consists of federal and local funds SDHC administers, such as HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded to the City of San Diego and the City's Affordable Housing Fund. The developer is Jamboree Housing Corporation.

This development is part of HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, SDHC's homelessness action plan, which has created more than 9,000 housing solutions in six years for San Diegans experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.



Bluewater/Stella and Zephyr
Award-Winning Developments

National Awards for SDHC Partnership Developments

SDHC partnership developments that provide more than 240 affordable apartments for families with low income and individuals and veterans who experienced homelessness were recognized with "Pillars of the Industry" awards from the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

The awards program highlights creative development concepts, innovative financing strategies, great design, and superior management and marketing in multifamily housing.

Affirmed Housing developed the award-winning projects, with funding and federal rental housing vouchers awarded by SDHC.

Bluewater & Stella – "Best Affordable Apartment Community (Over 100 Units)"

- 158 affordable apartments, including 87 units with supportive services for individuals who experienced homelessness
- SDHC awarded 62 federal Project-Based Vouchers and 25 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers and invested nearly \$17 million in loans from federal and City of San Diego funds SDHC administers (\$5.8 million in HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] awarded to the City of San Diego [City] and \$11.1 million from the City's Affordable Housing Fund)
- SDHC also authorized the issuance of more than \$19.5 million in tax-exempt Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds

Zephyr – "Best Adaptive Reuse"

- 84 permanent affordable apartments with supportive services for veterans who experienced homelessness
- SDHC awarded 84 federal rental housing vouchers and invested a \$3 million loan from federal and City funds SDHC administers (\$2.9 million from the Community Development Block Grant Affordable Housing Revolving Loan Fund, awarded by HUD to the City, and \$100,000 from the City's Affordable Housing Fund)

Homelessness 'PEER' Program Featured

The first-of-its kind Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources (PEER), a unique partnership between SDHC and San Diego City College, was featured in a 28-minute video presented to the League for Innovation in the Community College's national "Innovations 2021" virtual conference.

San Diego City College produced the video about the program, which provides specialized education, training and job placement assistance to develop the workforce needed for programs and services that help San Diegans experiencing homelessness.

[Watch the Video](#)

State Funding to Address Youth Homelessness

More than \$540,000 in California Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) grant funds have been allocated to three nonprofit organizations that serve young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

These programs will include additional beds, hotel vouchers in certain cases and an outreach worker to prioritize LGBTQ transition-age youth.

SDHC worked closely with the City of San Diego and the service providers to make these programs possible and administers the contracts for these programs.

[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.

