

June 24, 2021

With homelessness solutions continuing to grow as one of the San Diego Housing Commission's (SDHC) major program areas, I am pleased to share with you new initiatives and investments recently announced in the San Diego region.

The City of San Diego, County of San Diego, SDHC and additional organizations are working together to implement additional collaborative strategies this summer.

In addition, the federal government has awarded SDHC new vouchers specifically to help households experiencing homelessness.

California Governor Gavin Newsom also proposed a multibillion-dollar investment to address homelessness, which he announced at an SDHC-owned affordable housing property.

SDHC and organizations with which we collaborate recently earned prestigious local awards for developments and programs that address homelessness.

I invite you to read more below about these and additional recent SDHC activities.



Richard C. Gentry
SDHC President & CEO



San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and County Supervisors Chair Nathan Fletcher
Homelessness Strategies News Conference
June 18, 2021

Strategic, Collaborative Initiatives Announced to Address Homelessness

New collaborative strategies among the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, SDHC and additional organizations to address homelessness were announced at a news conference I was pleased to attend.

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria and San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chair Nathan Fletcher shared details of a coordinated homelessness outreach initiative focused on downtown San Diego, which will launch next week.

SDHC and the Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) will coordinate this initiative to help connect individuals experiencing homelessness to immediate shelter, housing navigation and behavioral health services, and medical care for those who need it.

In addition, later this summer, the County of San Diego will deploy Community Harm Reduction Teams (C-HRT) in central San Diego to provide outreach and engagement, connection to primary care and behavioral services and bridge housing, including "safe haven" housing, for individuals with chronic substance-use and mental health conditions.

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



California Governor Gavin Newsom News Conference
SDHC-Owned Kearny Vista Apartments
May 11, 2021

Governor Proposes Billions for Homelessness Solutions

A residential property SDHC purchased last year hosted a news conference at which California Governor Gavin Newsom announced a proposed multibillion-dollar landmark State investment to address homelessness.

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors Chair Nathan Fletcher, Father Joe's Villages President & CEO Deacon Jim Vargas, and SDHC Executive Vice President of Real Estate Emily S. Jacobs joined the Governor for the announcement at SDHC's Kearny Vista Apartments.

California's Homekey program was an essential source of funds for SDHC's purchase last year of two extended-stay hotels to convert them into 332 permanent affordable rental housing units with supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness. The state awarded \$37.7 million in Homekey funds to SDHC for these purchases.

SDHC subsequently named the properties Kearny Vista Apartments and Valley Vista Apartments.

The additional funding Governor Newsom announced includes approximately \$8.75 billion for Homekey and similar programs to create permanent affordable housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

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

SDHC Collaborations Honored with Local Awards

SDHC's creation of affordable housing solutions through property purchases and collaboration with other organizations earned prestigious local awards for excellence in affordable housing and community development.

These Ruby Awards, presented by the San Diego Housing Federation, reflect the importance and success of working together to achieve solutions to create affordable housing for households with low income or experiencing homelessness.

- "Innovations in Response to COVID-19": SDHC received this award for its purchase of two extended stay hotels to create 332 permanent affordable housing units with access to supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- "Government Agency of the Year": The City of San Diego received this award for initiatives that included its collaboration with SDHC on the hotel purchases, as well as collaboration with the County of San Diego, SDHC, the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, San Diego Convention Center and homelessness service providers for the Operation Shelter to Home initiative.
- "Supportive Housing" and "Environmental" Awards: the San Ysidro Senior Village development received these two awards. National Community Renaissance developed the property in collaboration with SDHC, which awarded rental housing vouchers and a development loan to support the project. San Ysidro Senior Village provides 50 affordable units for seniors who experienced homelessness.
- "Project of the Year – New Construction": Habitat for Humanity's COMM22 development of 11 townhomes received this award. SDHC committed up to \$770,000 through its first-time homebuyer program to help eligible households buy homes at this development.

[Read SDHC's News Release](#)

SDHC Receives Finance Award for 13th Consecutive Year

SDHC's Financial Services Department achieved the highest level of recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 13th year in a row.

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting recognizes SDHC's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020) for "demonstrating a constructive 'spirit of full disclosure' to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report."

GFOA is an association with more than 21,000 financial officials from federal, state, and local governmental organizations in the U.S. and Canada, whose mission is to advance excellence in public finance.

Webinar: Hotel Purchases to Create Housing

I joined Lourdes Castro Ramirez, Secretary of the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, for a presentation during a National Housing Conference webinar, "It Works: Converting Motels and Hotels into Affordable Housing" on June 17, 2021.

The presentations discussed initiatives implemented in several states to acquire hotel properties and convert them into permanent affordable rental housing for households experiencing homelessness.

I spoke about SDHC's purchase of two extended-stay hotel properties, with essential funding from the State of California's Homekey Program, to create 332 affordable rental housing units with access to supportive services for individuals who experienced homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emergency Housing Vouchers Awarded to SDHC

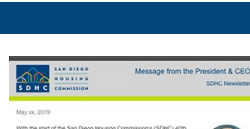
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded 480 new federal Emergency Housing Vouchers to SDHC to help pay rent for families and individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

These vouchers are among approximately 70,000 vouchers HUD is awarding to public housing agencies throughout the nation through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which President Joe Biden signed into law on March 11, 2021.

The vouchers will assist those who are experiencing homelessness; are at risk of experiencing homelessness; are fleeing or attempting to flee situations of domestic violence; or who recently experienced homelessness and for whom rental assistance will help prevent their homelessness or a high risk of housing instability.



[SDHC Website](#)



[Previous SDHC Email Updates](#)



[SDHC Annual Reports](#)

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.

