



October 21, 2021

As communities throughout the State of California continue to experience housing challenges, a working group of California Assemblymembers visited San Diego to discuss a variety of housing-related issues and solutions.

Assemblymembers Chris Ward and Brian Maienschein from San Diego and six additional Assemblymembers toured communities statewide. During their visit to San Diego, I was pleased to lead a San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) presentation.



Richard C. Gentry SDHC President & CEO

We focused on SDHC's collaborations with developers to create and preserve affordable rental housing and our homelessness programs, including HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, SDHC's homelessness action plan, which has created approximately 9,900 housing solutions in less than seven years for San Diegans experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

The discussion also included the need for funding and flexibility to address housing challenges.

I thank Assemblymember Ward for inviting SDHC to participate in this important discussion. SDHC looks forward to continuing to work with him and additional state lawmakers on these issues.

I invite you to read more about SDHC's recent activities.



California State Assemblymembers Housing Working Group Panel Discussion – San Diego October 14, 2021



SDHC Accessory Dwelling Unit Pilot Program News Conference October 11, 2021

## SDHC Shares "Lessons Learned" for ADU Construction

SDHC completed a pilot program that built five Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and provides "lessons learned" about the development process to help San Diego homeowners considering building ADUs on their properties.

I joined San Diego City Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn and City Councilmember Vivian Moreno to announce the completion of the pilot program and the release of SDHC's "lessons learned" report, which is available on our website at [www.sdhc.org/adu](http://www.sdhc.org/adu).

This report also provides estimated costs and timelines for building ADUs in the City of San Diego.

ADUs are an important option to create new rental homes in San Diego to address the housing shortage in the city.

A report SDHC published in 2017, "[Addressing the Housing Affordability Crisis: San Diego Housing Production Objectives 2018-20](#)," identified ADUs as one of the five main sources of potential new housing for the City of San Diego over 10 years—through 2028.

[Read the SDHC News Release](#)

## National Awards for SDHC Housing and Homelessness Programs

SDHC received five Awards of Merit from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) for programs to address affordable housing and homelessness, including collaborative initiatives.

These awards recognize programs with "an innovative approach, creating and using techniques and procedures that represent new and creative practices in implementing programs and resolving problems."

Two of these programs are also finalists for the prestigious NAHRO Awards of Excellence, a higher level of recognition for which winners will be announced in March 2022.

SDHC's Awards of Excellence finalists are:

- "[Preserving Affordable Housing in the City of San Diego](#)," an SDHC report that provides a housing inventory in the City of San Diego, including a first-of-its-kind inventory of naturally occurring affordable housing; cost estimates for preserving housing at risk of losing its affordability; and strategies to preserve affordability.
- [Operation Shelter to Home](#), the collaborative initiative in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the health of San Diegans experiencing homelessness and help them obtain housing as quickly as possible. This initiative helped 1,465 individuals obtain permanent or longer-term housing in less than a year.

The additional SDHC programs that earned Awards of Merit are:

- **Affordable Housing: Hillcrest Inn.** SDHC's purchase of Hillcrest Inn created 45 long-term, deed-restricted affordable rental housing units for a mix of incomes from individuals who experienced homelessness to middle-income households with income up to 150 percent of San Diego's Area Median Income.
- **Administrative Innovation: Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources (PEER).** This is a first-of-its-kind partnership between SDHC and San Diego City College that provides specialized education, training and job placement assistance to develop the workforce needed for programs and services that help San Diegans experiencing homelessness.
- **Administrative Innovation: Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Online Application Portal.** SDHC created this new online NOFA portal to streamline the application process for funds available from SDHC.

[Read the SDHC News Release](#)

## Grant for Homeownership Opportunities

A coalition that includes SDHC, the San Diego City-County Reinvestment Task Force, and numerous organizations has been awarded a planning grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation to support increasing homeownership among Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

The \$150,000 planning grant through the Wealth Opportunities Restored through Homeownership (WORTH) program is for six-month planning phase to develop an approach.

Those who submit their plan by the program deadline of March 31, 2022, are expected to be invited to apply for a second phase, in which eight areas will be chosen to receive \$7.5 million multiyear grants to implement the program.

The goal of this initiative is to create 5,000 net new BIPOC homeowners in eight program areas by 2025 – a total of 40,000 new homeownership opportunities across the United States.

My thanks and congratulations to San Diego City Councilmember Monica Montgomery Steppe and San Diego County Supervisor Joel Anderson, the Co-Chairs of the City-County Reinvestment Task Force, the entire task force, and the additional organizations involved with the coalition for this program, including:

- Habitat for Humanity
- LISC
- National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals
- National Association of Real Estate Brokers
- San Diego Housing Federation
- Urban League



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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.

