



February 1, 2022

As housing and homelessness solutions remain prominent areas of focus across the country, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) continues to help families with low income stay in their homes and to provide innovative homelessness programs.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has announced that more funding is headed to San Diego to help pay rent and utilities for families with low income experiencing financial hardship due to or during the pandemic.

In addition, a case manager with a homelessness service provider is sharing her story about the impact an unprecedented collaboration between SDHC and San Diego City College had on her and her career path to help people experiencing homelessness.

Additional SDHC collaborations to provide shelter and permanent housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness also were discussed during a Public Housing Authorities Directors Association conference in San Diego in January.

I invite you to read more about these SDHC activities.



Richard C. Gentry SDHC President & CEO

## Additional Funds for COVID-19 Housing Stability Program

As households with low income continue to struggle with financial hardship due to or during the COVID-19 pandemic, more funding to help them is on its way to San Diego.

The federal government has awarded \$8.3 million in funds reallocated from other jurisdictions across the country to the City of San Diego for the [COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program](#), which SDHC operates.

Among local jurisdictions that were awarded reallocated funds, the City of San Diego received the third-highest award, following only Harris County, Texas, which includes the City of Houston (\$8.6 million), and the City of Philadelphia (\$8.36 million).

These funds are a direct result of our program successfully getting payments out more quickly than other areas to help struggling households. With the new funding, SDHC will help more families with low income pay their rent and utilities.

The COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program launched March 15, 2021. As of January 31, 2022, SDHC has made payments totaling more than \$160 million to help 15,161 households.

[Read the News Release](#)



Karisa Cinco Homelessness PEER Course Participant January 24, 2022

## Finding a “Calling” to Help People Experiencing Homelessness

An innovative course provided through a unique collaboration between SDHC and San Diego City College helped Karisa Cinco find her “calling” and a career with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) in San Diego.

Within about six months, she had earned a promotion from residential coordinator to case manager, where she works one-on-one with San Diegans experiencing homelessness, guides them through the intake process, and helps them access the services they need.

“I feel energized when once I come in this door, seeing the clients, seeing their faces, and then the conversations that we have—it’s just so satisfying,” Karisa said. “It’s such a good feeling to just come into work and know that you’re going to change someone’s life.”

The Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources (PEER) provides students with specialized education, training and job placement in an effort to provide the skills essential for working in San Diego’s homelessness services sector.

SDHC and San Diego City College launched this first-of-its-kind collaboration in fall 2020 to address the need that SDHC identified for additional skilled, qualified applicants for positions in the area of homelessness programs and services in the City of San Diego.

[Read Karisa’s Story](#)

[Watch the Video](#)

## National Housing Conference in San Diego

SDHC was pleased to participate in the Public Housing Authorities Directors Association’s (PHADA) 2022 Commissioners’ Conference, which San Diego hosted in January.

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria provided a special video message for conference participants. SDHC Deputy Chief Executive Officer Jeff Davis welcomed attendees. A panel discussion titled “Moving the Needle on Homelessness: Using Moving to Work Flexibilities to Meet the Needs of Individuals” included Hafsa Kaka, the City of San Diego’s Director of Homelessness Strategies and Solutions; Lisa Jones, SDHC’s Executive Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, who oversees SDHC’s Homeless Housing Innovations Division; and Tamara Kohler, the Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness.

The panel discussion included [HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO](#), SDHC’s homelessness action plan, which has created more than 9,900 housing solutions in seven years for San Diegans experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and the [Community Action Plan on Homelessness](#) for the City of San Diego.



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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 San Diegans with low income and/or experiencing homelessness.

