



MEMORANDUM

To: Betsy Brennan, President & CEO, Downtown San Diego Partnership
 Jerry Sanders, President & CEO, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Drew Moser, Executive Director, Lucky Duck Foundation

From: Mitch Mitchell, Chair of the Board, San Diego Housing Commission

Date: September 29, 2022

Subject: Progress on Homelessness Initiatives in the City of San Diego

There has been some recent discussion about the metrics tied to the efforts to address homelessness in the City of San Diego (City). The intent of this memo is to provide more detail about the San Diego Housing Commission’s (SDHC) City-funded efforts to shelter people and offer programs that help address the needs of people who are currently struggling with homelessness, have been evicted or are at risk of being evicted. We know that an increasing number of people are potentially at risk of eviction due to the rising cost of living in the region. There is so much that needs to be done to help address homelessness properly. We are one entity in what has become an important team approach to addressing this situation. There is more we will do beyond what is listed on this memo because the answer to homelessness is multifaceted and needs to be sustainable and impactful.

Shelter

The number of shelter beds available for people experiencing homelessness in the City has increased by 408, or 38 percent, from April 1, 2021, to September 25, 2022. The table below shows the operating capacity of shelters in service on September 25, 2022, and the change in operating capacity at each shelter since April 1, 2021, after Operation Shelter to Home concluded.

Operating Capacity Comparison Detail: April 1 – September 25, 2022

PROGRAM	OPERATING CAPACITY (04/01/2021)	OPERATING CAPACITY (09/25/2022)	CHANGE (+/-)
Alpha Project Bridge Shelter (16th & Newton)	180	276	96
Alpha Project Bridge Shelter (17th & Imperial)	106	128	22
Alpha Project - Harm Reduction Interim Shelter	0	44	44
Alpha Project Bridge Shelter (Rosecrans)	0	150	150
Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego - Rachel's Promise	0	38	38
Father Joe's Villages - Bishop Maher Center	28	28	0
Father Joe's Villages - Golden Hall (1st Floor)	324	324	0
Father Joe's Villages - Golden Hall (2nd Floor) - TAY	46	46	0
Father Joe's Villages - Golden Hall (2nd Floor) - Families	146	95	-51
Father Joe's Villages - Paul Mirabile Center	175	245	70
PATH Connections Housing	38	76	38
San Diego Youth Services - TAY Shelter	5	0	-5
San Diego Youth Services - Unaccompanied Minors	4	10	6
Urban Street Angels - TAY Shelter	19	19	0
TOTAL	1071	1479	408

A portion of shelter beds were unavailable at times during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to allow space for social distancing and isolation beds. The data above reflect 188 beds that were offline during the pandemic but are now available. In addition, new shelter programs have added 232 beds, and shelter expansion further increased beds available by 44. These increases are partially offset by a reduction of five beds at the shelter for transition-age youth, operated by San Diego Youth Services, and a decrease of 51 beds at Golden Hall that temporarily are not available during ongoing repairs.

These data do not include additional shelter efforts the City's Homelessness Strategies and Solutions Department has undertaken, such as:

1. The opening of the 42-room Palm Avenue Interim Shelter that prioritizes seniors who are matched to housing.
2. The City taking possession of a 34-room hotel on Pacific Highway, which will become a non-congregate shelter for up to 60 seniors.
3. City efforts to create a 26-bed inclement weather shelter at the Old Central Library.
4. Plans for additional non-congregate shelter beds.

The aforementioned shelter initiatives also do not include the efforts the Mayor's office has taken to expand safe parking for people experiencing homelessness.

Outreach

Coordinated Street Outreach

On June 14, 2021, the City Council's approval of the Fiscal Year 2022 City Budget included the allocation of an additional \$1 million from the City General Fund to support the expansion of the Coordinated Street Outreach Program operated by People Assisting the Homeless (Resolution R-313586). The [video \[sandiego.granicus.com\]](#) of the City Council's June 14, 2021, meeting is available on City TV's website.

On July 9, 2021, the SDHC Board of Commissioners (Board) approved an amendment to the operating agreement with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) for this program to incorporate the additional \$1 million from the City General Fund. The [video \[youtu.be\]](#) of the SDHC Board meeting at which this action occurred and the [staff report \[sdhc.org\]](#) for this action are available on SDHC's website.

Multidisciplinary Outreach

On June 13, 2022, the City Council's approval of the Fiscal Year 2023 City Budget included the allocation of \$500,000 from the City General Fund for a Multidisciplinary Outreach Program (Resolution [R-314153 \[docs.sandiego.gov\]](#)). The [video \[sandiego.granicus.com\]](#) of the City Council's June 13, 2022, meeting is available on City TV's website.

On September 19, 2022, the City Council, in its role as the Housing Authority of the City of San Diego, approved an agreement between SDHC and PATH to operate the Multidisciplinary Outreach Program. The [staff report \[sdhc.org\]](#) for the Housing Authority action is available on SDHC's website, and the [video \[sandiego.granicus.com\]](#) of the meeting is available on City TV's website. The SDHC Board had recommended on September 16, 2022, that the Housing

Authority take this action. The [video \[youtu.be\]](#) of the SDHC Board meeting and the SDHC Board [staff report \[sdhc.org\]](#) are available on SDHC's website.

Housing

COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program

SDHC worked closely with the Mayor's office, the City Council and the City's Economic Development Department on the COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program, which SDHC operated and administered for the City. Federal and state funds awarded to the City supported this program, which helped pay rent and utilities for households with low income that experienced financial hardship due to or during the pandemic. Through this program, SDHC made payments totaling more than \$218 million to help more than 18,300 eligible households.

SDHC provided monthly updates to the Mayor and Councilmembers throughout the COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program. The most recent memo, with data as of August 31, 2022, is attached. In addition, SDHC staff has made multiple presentations to the City Council to request authorization for funding for this program. The most recent presentation occurred September 12, 2022. The [staff report \[sdhc.org\]](#) and [Housing Authority resolution \[sdhc.org\]](#) for the September 12, 2022, meeting are available on SDHC's website. The [video \[sandiego.granicus.com\]](#) of the meeting is available on City TV's website.

Homekey

SDHC also collaborated with the Mayor's office to apply for Homekey funds from the State of California. On April 25, 2022, the SDHC Board authorized SDHC to apply for up to \$12 million in Homekey funds in accordance with the September 9, 2021, Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Homekey Program. The [staff report \[sdhc.org\]](#), SDHC staff [presentation \[sdhc.org\]](#), SDHC Board [resolution \[sdhc.org\]](#), and [video \[youtu.be\]](#) of the SDHC Board meeting are available on SDHC's website.

On August 24, 2022, California [Governor Gavin Newsom announced](#) that \$694 million in Homekey funds awarded statewide included \$11.8 million for the City of San Diego to support the creation of 40 affordable rental housing units for people experiencing homelessness. The [joint announcement \[sandiego.gov\]](#) by Mayor Gloria and County Board of Supervisors Chair Nathan Fletcher included additional details about the development these Homekey funds will support.

Additional Initiatives

The COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program and Homekey funds are separate from and in addition to the Mayor's additional housing initiatives, "Bridge to Home" and "Homes for All of Us."

HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO

SDHC continues to operate the programs of its homelessness action plan, HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, which launched November 12, 2014, and had expanded to include additional programs since then. HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO has created more than 10,600 housing

solutions for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The data file with details about these housing solutions is attached.

Rental Housing Vouchers

SDHC has committed 5,233 federal rental housing vouchers to addressing homelessness, including vouchers awarded to developments that are pending construction completion. These vouchers include vouchers that are part of HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO. As of June 30, 2022, 3,875 people who previously experienced homelessness were leasing a rental housing unit of their own with a rental housing voucher from SDHC that was committed specifically to address homelessness.

Housing Instability Prevention Program

SDHC operates the Housing Instability Prevention Program (HIPP), which helps pay rent and other housing-related expenses for families in the City of San Diego with low income and unstable housing situations, such as facing eviction for nonpayment of rent. The program launched this month.

With current funding, the program can assist approximately 300 households. SDHC identifies potential participants from referrals from 2-1-1 San Diego. Housing Specialists contact those households to confirm and verify if they qualify for help.

The program pays \$500 per month for up to 24 months for qualifying households in the City of San Diego and assists with housing-related expenses such as security deposits, past-due rent, utilities, application fees or furniture, depending on the family's need. Payments are made directly to the approved vendor, such as the landlord or utility company.

The City Council approved funding for this program, to be administered by SDHC, in its approval of the City of San Diego's Fiscal Year 2023 budget. [Information about the program \[sdhc.org\]](#) is available on SDHC's website.

Eviction Prevention Program

The City of San Diego Eviction Prevention Program remains available to help tenants with low income in the City of San Diego who are facing eviction for not paying their rent due to the financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. EPP is operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego through a contract with SDHC through June 30, 2023.

Tenants who need help preventing housing displacement, including those who did not qualify for assistance from the COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program, should contact EPP by phone at 1-877 LEGAL AID (1-877-534-2524); TTY at 1-800-735-2929; or email at info@lassd.org.

Additional details about EPP, including locations and hours of service, are available on SDHC's website at www.sdhc.org/evictionban [sdhc.org].

Legal Aid Society of San Diego is required to report outcomes to SDHC. Through July 2022:

1. 614 unique households assisted
 1. 101 households received full legal assistance

2. 521 households received limited legal assistance
(The sum of the subtotals of households that received full or limited legal assistance exceeds the total number of unique households the program has assisted because the timing of when households received specific types of assistance may result in a household being counted more than once in the subtotals.)
2. 596 households provided race or ethnicity information
 3. **Ethnicity**
 1. 28 percent Hispanic
 2. 72 percent Not Hispanic
 4. **Race**
 1. 41.3 percent White
 2. 30.9 percent Black/African-American
 3. 19.6 percent Other Multiracial
 4. 3.2 percent Asian
 5. 2.9 percent American Indian/Alaskan Native
 6. 1.3 percent Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
 7. 0.5 percent Black/African-American & White
 8. 0.3 percent American Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African-American
3. 739 hotline calls received and responded to
4. 10,285 referrals to other community resources.
5. 111 public awareness events conducted
6. 43 public workshops conducted
7. 18 targeted trainings conducted

Homelessness System Staff Capacity

Additional funding the Mayor allocated from the City General Fund enabled the first-of-its kind collaboration between SDHC and San Diego City College, known as the Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources (PEER), to expand and serve more students. The Homelessness PEER course provides specialized education, training and job placement assistance to develop the workforce needed for programs and services that help San Diegans experiencing homelessness. On May 5, 2022, the SDHC Board approved an agreement between SDHC and the San Diego Community College District to continue operations of the Homelessness PEER course. The [staff report \[sdhc.org\]](#) presented to the SDHC Board on May 5 includes details about the program and enrollment. The staff report, [presentation \[sdhc.org\]](#) and [video \[youtu.be\]](#) of the May 5 SDHC Board meeting are available on SDHC's website. In addition, information about [Homelessness PEER \[sdhc.org\]](#), including a story about a program participant who secured work as a case manager for PATH, is available on SDHC website.

The aforementioned outreach efforts do not include the City's special outreach teams in collaboration with City Net to provide support for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness on highways in an effort to enhance safety measures in partnership with Caltrans.

The Mayor's initiatives to continue to conduct biweekly focused outreach events throughout the city and the City Council's approval of \$1 million for outreach in the Downtown core also are in addition to the outreach efforts described above.

Conclusion

SDHC values the partnership with Mayor Gloria on this effort. He has reaffirmed his commitment to working with us to identify and implement new programs that help address homelessness in the City of San Diego. We understand that this problem is not one seen only in San Diego, and hopefully we can continue to provide good ideas for other cities in the region and state to consider. We hope to also learn new ideas from other partners focused on this situation too. At SDHC, we will continue to collaborate with the Mayor's office and all other organizations in the community who are focused on addressing this challenging situation.