

SD PromiseZone Newsletter

Final Issue
—
All-Partner
Celebration
June 4, 2026

The Promise

"To co-create an ecosystem of opportunity and investment through collaboration that addresses systemic racism and inequities to improve the quality of life of Promise Zone residents."

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AmeriCorps VISTA Chrishael Sanchez and SDSU students surveying residents at the Transportation Justice Expo on April 11, 2026.



A MESSAGE TO OUR PARTNERS

FROM THE PROMISE ZONE STAFF

Dear Promise Zone Network,

For 10 years, from 2016-2026, organizations throughout the San Diego region have worked together to advance the Promise Zone's commitment to improve quality of life. The federal designation will end on June 6, and the initiative will evolve into the **San Diego Promise Zone Alliance** as a community-powered movement. The City of San Diego will continue to be an active partner, supporting the shift toward increased community leadership and helping to ensure the San Diego Promise Zone (SDPZ) Alliance continues to build on the momentum of the past decade.

In this last issue of the Promise Zone Newsletter, we invite you to RSVP for the **All-Partner Celebration** on June 4, 2026. The event will be a wonderful way to recognize each other and introduce the SDPZ Alliance. We also recognize both **Rosa Ana Lozada** and **Amber Joy Weber** in the Community Spotlight, and draw attention to the **Economic Development Department** and its role in shaping the San Diego Promise Zone's development.

~San Diego Promise Zone Team

PROMISE ZONE IN THE NEWS

'THE BLACK FAMILY'
IS BACK: HOW
MOUNTAIN VIEW
REFUSED TO LET THE
CITY FORGET ITS
HISTORY

'THIS IS CULTURE':
THOUSANDS COME
TOGETHER IN BARRIO
LOGAN TO
CELEBRATE CHICANO
PARK DAY

SAN DIEGO CITY
COUNCIL
FORMALIZES
'FARMWORKERS
DAY' AND NEW
BARRIO LOGAN
STREET NAME





Please join us for the 2026

All-Partner Celebration

THURSDAY | **JUNE 4** | 1-4 PM

Workshops for Warriors
3030 Main St., San Diego, CA 92113

Celebrate the history, impact and legacy of the
San Diego Promise Zone and the future of the
San Diego Promise Zone Alliance.



More info and RVSP at
bit.ly/sdpzcelebration
by May 22.

PROMISE ZONE UPDATES



Farewell, AmeriCorps VISTA, **Amairany Macias**

Amairany joined the Promise Zone team in May 2025 as a Communications Associate. She co-developed the monthly newsletters, regularly updated the Promise Zone website, participated in community events, co-led the 4th Annual Youth-Led Career Expo, and worked with co-chairs to facilitate the Housing Affordability and Jobs & Education Working Group meetings.

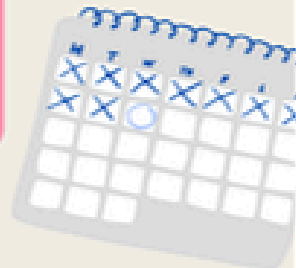
"A major thank you to the Promise Zone team and Promise Zone partners for allowing me to assist in the development of such an audacious and innovative initiative. The Promise Zone designation was designated by the federal government but it was sustained through the combined efforts of local groups who showed great care and attention to the community. It is a testament to how collaboration and vision can provide fruitful opportunities and results. I will take the skills honed here to my next powerful venture. Thank you for having me, it was truly a pleasure."

UPCOMING WORKING GROUP MEETING:

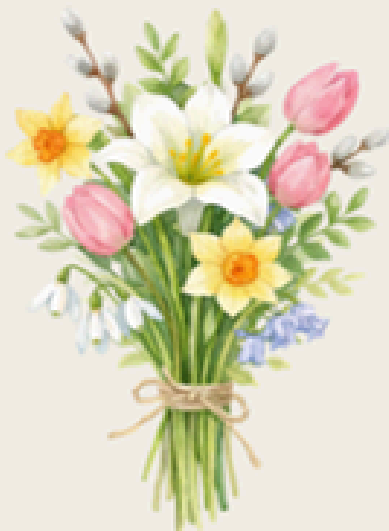
Healthy Communities

Thursday, May 14, 2026

10-11:30 a.m.



OTHER NEWSLETTERS TO SUBSCRIBE TO:

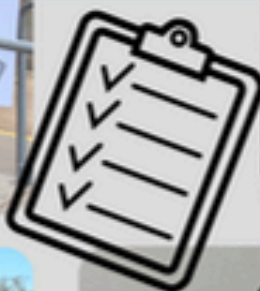


- [City of San Diego department newsletters](#), e.g., Economic Development or Planning
- [Live Well San Diego News](#)
- [Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties](#)

2026 COMMUNITY PERCEPTION SURVEY



- 750+ in-person surveys over seven weeks at 19 sites
- 64 SDSU students and three VISTAS surveyed residents
- Results will be available in June



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Rosa Ana Lozada & Amber Joy Weber

Rosa Ana Lozada's involvement in the Promise Zone came through her role as CEO of [Harmonium](#), a local non-profit that "believes strongly in the value of relationships, the strengths of families, and the commitment of their staff." Rosa Ana revealed that her decision to ally herself with the Promise Zone came about because she is "intentional about engaging in work that reflects our vision, an inclusive and equitable world where all children, youth and their families can truly flourish," and she recounts how the San Diego Promise Zone drew her in *because* it creates this real opportunity: to strengthen partnerships and move shared goals forward for SDPZ communities. This shared goal and commitment to the community drove her to take on the role of Steering Committee chair.



About ten years ago, Rosa Ana had the opportunity to help develop the Promise Zone application while serving on the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention. That experience deepened her understanding of the gaps in our systems. It reaffirmed her belief that *meaningful* change happens when we **invest** in those strengths and **center** the voices of those we serve. She grew up in San Francisco, CA and later attended the University of California Berkley's School of Social Welfare. In her free time, Rosa Ana enjoys spending time with her family, taking long walks and having long, meaningful dinners with friends.

Amber Joy Weber grew up in West Michigan and moved to San Diego in 2011. Her career has been dedicated to enhancing quality of life and helping youth realize their potential. She has worked with the City of San Diego since September 2022. After initially leading the City's internship program, Amber transferred to the Economic Development Department to work with the San Diego Promise Zone. She says the best part of her job is working with passionate individuals who care about people—especially the Promise Zone Steering Committee, community partners and the volunteer AmeriCorps VISTAs who have supported the Promise Zone since 2017. "Every day I see 'hard work' turned into 'heart work,' as our partners and team truly care for those they serve," she said.

Amber holds degrees from the University of Michigan, Johns Hopkins University and Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. She says the best part of living in San Diego is the swap meets, where she finds unique decor and all sorts of projects to work on.

Thank you, Rosa Ana and Amber, for allowing us to highlight you in this month's newsletter!

FINANCIAL WELLNESS



CalCoast offers a Financial Wellness Series designed to benefit those served by local nonprofit organizations. Program goals include:

- Increase Personal Financial Literacy among non-profit leaders, staff and the communities they serve.
- Promote Sustainable Practices through budgeting, debt management and savings strategies.
- Strengthen Organizational Capacity to provide financial information and resources to their communities.
- Foster Community Collaboration by creating a cohort-based learning environment.



Month 5: Building Healthy Savings Habits

May 18, 2026 at 10:30AM

- Plan ahead for regular bills, emergencies, and big purchases
- Save for the future, including retirement and long-term goals
- Use easy steps to build a habit of saving and reaching your goals

[REGISTER](#)

Financial Wellness Curriculum



In partnership with the City of San Diego we are launching a 6-Month Financial Wellness Curriculum designed to benefit the people served by local nonprofit organizations.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



RESOURCES



The [San Diego Housing Commission \(SDHC\)](#) offers free trainings and webinars. Click [here](#) for May webinars.

PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unless otherwise stated, events listed below are not organized by the City of San Diego. Please reach out to the sponsoring organization for details or questions.



May 5

Grant Writing Technical Support Workshop Tuesday, May 5, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Learn how to research government grants, the benefits of joining existing networks, how to identify collaborative partnerships, grant writing templates and more! The workshop will take place at the Southeastern Live Well Center at 5101 Market St. in San Diego.

[Register here.](#)

May 9

Sustainable 'Hood San Diego Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The Sustainable 'Hood is designed for students and community members who want to deepen their understanding of environmental justice, build leadership skills, and explore real pathways into climate-related education, careers and community action. [Get more information and register.](#)



May 9 or 16

Access Youth Academy 2026 Tryouts Registration Saturday, May 9 or 16, 2026 from 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.


This program is a 14-day journey into the world of squash, academics, community service, leadership and professional/personal enrichment. Access challenges its students to realize their full potential as athletes, learners and leaders. Students attend an after-school program every other day for tutoring and squash practice. [Visit this form to learn more.](#)



We post partner events to our [City Calendar website](#). If you would like us to post your event, please fill out our [Submission Form](#). The form is also available on our [website](#).

[Promise Zone Calendar](#)

Partner Announcements




Live Well San Diego Central Region Community Leadership Team

Grant Writing Technical Support Workshop!

Event Details:

REGISTER BY MAY 1



WHEN
May 5, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

WHERE
Southeastern Live Well Center
Conference Rooms | 5101 Market St.,
San Diego, CA 92114

In the Session you will learn:

- How to research local, state, and national grants
- Benefits of joining existing networks: Where and how to join
- How to identify collaborative partnerships and a fiscal agent
- Recent successes and valuable tips
- Hands on support
- Grant writing templates

Bring your laptop! This is an opportunity to work on upcoming grants with hands on support!

For more information reach out to Amelia Barile-Simon,
Amelia.barile-simon@sdcounty.ca.gov

For more information on the Live Well San Diego Central Region Community Leadership Team visit <https://enrings.livewellsd.org/central-clt-page>



San Diego Job Corps Workforce Industry Council



May 6, 2026
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM



Calling all employers!
Don't miss this opportunity to connect with emerging talent, strengthen industry collaboration, and help shape the future workforce with the San Diego Job Corps program.

Why You Should Be There:

- Collaborate with industry partners to align workforce needs
- Discover how our training programs support your hiring goals
- Observe hands-on learning during an exclusive trade visit
- Build valuable partnerships with community and business leaders

Enjoy light refreshments while you network, collaborate, and spark new opportunities



Please RSVP by May 1, 2026




SUSTAINABLE 'HOOD SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP POP-UP

Not sure how to get involved with sustainability? **START HERE!**

FREE EVENT!
SAT. MAY 9, 9AM-2:30PM
San Diego Made Factory, 2031 Commercial St. SD 92113

Highlights

- Climate Education
- Pathways Forward
- Plant-based bites!
- Community Connection
- Recognition Ceremony
- Networking Opportunities!



INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:
buytickets.at/igc/2137620

Presented by The Uplift Institute, In Good Company, and San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition



MALCOLM X LIBRARY 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Join us for a community celebration marking two historic milestones: The Library's 30th Anniversary and Malcolm X's birthday month!

Saturday
MAY 9, 2026
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

MALCOLM X LIBRARY
5148 Market St.
San Diego, CA 92114

SPONSORED BY



<https://friendsofthemalcolmlibrary.org>



Partner Announcements

SDSU | School of Theatre, Television, and Film

SAN DIEGO AREA THEATRE FORUM & JOB FAIR

2026

Join us for an in-person networking event connecting designers, technicians, stage managers, craftspeople and actors with employers from across the San Diego region. Learn about job openings, over-hire lists, and future opportunities.

Kick off the day with a public forum exploring the challenges and opportunities shaping today's theatre community.

MAY 11, 2026

2:30 - 3:30 PM FORUM / MODERATED DISCUSSION
3:30 - 5:30 PM JOB FAIR / NETWORKING EVENT

DIRECTIONS / PARKING

PREBYS STAGE, SDSU
SAN DIEGO, CA 92182

SOME OF THE PAST PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- California Center for the Arts, Escondido
- Cygnal Theatre
- Dimensionary Theatre
- IATSE Local 122
- La Jolla Music Society
- La Jolla Playhouse
- Moonlight Amphitheatre
- Movie Theatre
- Nautilus Entertainment Design
- San Diego Opera
- North Coast Rep
- San Diego Symphony
- San Diego Musical Theatre
- Show Imaging
- The Old Globe Theatre

HOSTED BY: SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEATRE, TV, AND FILM

SDJobFair@gmail.com

SCHOLARS FORWARD FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!!!

2026 Application link is now Live!!!

APPLICANTS MUST ATTEND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SCHOOLS:

- CRAWFORD HIGH SCHOOL
- HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL
- SWEETWATER HIGH SCHOOL
- WELIX HIGH SCHOOL
- LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 13, 2026, AT 5:00 P.M. PST OR WHEN 30 APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED.

IN-PERSON INTERVIEWS: MAY/JUNE

AWARDS CEREMONY: TBD

MUST HAVE A COMBINED GPA BETWEEN 2.0 AND 2.4

Apply at: ScholarsForwardFoundation.org
Click on "apply here" questions!
email: scholarsforward@yahoo.com
phone: 619-535-9495

APPLY NOW!

UC SAN DIEGO JUNIOR RESEARCH ACADEMY

A UNIQUE UCSD PROGRAM DESIGNED TO INSPIRE THE MIND

April 28, 2026 - May 21, 2026

ABOUT THIS 8-SESSION PROGRAM:

- OPEN TO 8TH AND 9TH GRADERS
- 2 CLASSES TUESDAY/THURSDAY, 4:30-5:30PM OVER ZOOM
- TAUGHT BY UCSD THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR STUDENTS
- SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES:
 - INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING
 - UNDERSTANDING DATA SCIENCE
 - FOUNDATIONS OF ALGEBRA 1
 - INTRODUCTION TO NANOENGINEERING

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- SMALL CLASS SIZE OF EIGHT STUDENTS
- VIRTUAL CLASS SETTING
- VIRTUAL LIGHTNING TALK FINAL PRESENTATION
- CERTIFICATE UPON COMPLETION

JR Research Academy UC San Diego

SDSC UC San Diego

For Questions, Please Contact Ange Mason at amazon@ucsd.edu

SD Office of Child and Youth Success presents...

YOUTH SUMMIT 2026

June 3rd • 10:00am - 3:45pm • Balboa Park

ROBOTS • GUEST SPEAKERS • WORKSHOPS • ART • COMMUNITY

An opportunity for youth (ages 15-24) in San Diego to build bridges with community and connect with resources while having fun in the park, learning and creating with peers.

San Diego Youth, ages 15-24, are highly encouraged to attend!

REGISTER
bit.ly/sdyouthsummit2026

GO-HOSTS

- Public Library youth will
- SD PromiseZone
- OUR TIME TO ACT
- THE CENTER

ANT ACTIVITIES PRESENTED BY: San Diego Creative Youth Development Network

Information for resource vendors and sponsors: ocys@sandiego.gov

Partner Announcements

Summer READING HELP
Does Your Child STRUGGLE TO READ?



Who Is This For?
Students in Grades K-5 who are behind in reading
San Diego County residents

Program Details

- Scholarships & Tuition for Tutoring
- EBLI-Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction™
- 1-on-1 or small group
- Two 45-minute sessions per week
- From We Strive for Literacy, a local nonprofit
- Available **Virtually**- Computer and Internet required

SIGN UP TO GET YOUR SPOT TODAY!

FREE SEATS AVAILABLE



- Measurable Gains. In weeks - Not Years
- Clear end date (no endless tutoring)
- Pre/Post assessments
- Speech-to-Print approach

LIMITED SPOTS

<https://westriveforliteracy.org/sign-up/>

212-434-4822 | www.westriveforliteracy.org | @westriveforliteracy

DETOUR FANCY
EXPO & LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
FOCUS ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND ARTS



THIS ISN'T A SUMMER CAMP.
IT'S A LEADERSHIP, STEM, AND WELLNESS EXPERIENCE.

Build Confidence & Leadership | **Hands-On STEM Activities** | **Ocean & Wellness Fun** | **Mentorship & New Friends** | **Weekly Field Trips**

Week 1: July 6 • Week 2: July 13
Elementary Institute of Science
\$300 per week

Week 1 Includes Paddle for Peace Ocean Experience
Beach Day • Wellness • Team-Building

Week 2

ONLY 20 GIRLS PER WEEK
Spots are limited - Register Early!

What your daughter will experience:

- ✓ Hands on STEM learning with EIS Instructors
- ✓ Interactive leadership & confidence workshops (FANCY curriculum)
- ✓ Ocean experience with Paddle for Peace
- ✓ Team-building, communication, and self-development activities



EIS Elementary Institute of Science

FREE!

PEER TUTORING PROGRAM

Offered by the Giving Circle Foundation

Personalized Support

Register with the QR code or visit eisca.org

SCAN



SIGN UP NOW

- Saturdays at EIS
- 10:00am - 12:00pm
- 10yrs old and older
- Registration Required!
- Math
- Science
- English
- History
- Test Taking

The LEARN Program



Power Up Your Knowledge

Free Energy Efficiency & Electrification Courses



Scan the QR code to explore "Your Path in the Trades"

Want to lower your energy bills, while future proofing your home, workplace, or career?

The LEARN Program provides free training, your way: live webinars, in-person workshops, or self-paced online on-demand. Hundreds of courses are available to you covering building operations, high-performance design & construction, HVAC, sustainability, and so much more.

HVAC Systems Overview

Learn the basics of mechanical refrigeration, including air conditioning and heat pumps.

EPA 608 Test Prep

Covers topics like the Clean Air Act, Montreal Protocol, refrigerant blends, identification, handling, and safety.


Building Science Principles Test Prep

Prepares for this Building Performance Institute (BPI) certificate exam with short tutorials, videos, and practice quizzes.

More info at sandiegolearn.com

LEARN

Partner Announcements



**FREE
ENGLISH &
CITIZENSHIP
CLASSES**



**TUESDAY
MARTES**

**ESL/CLASES DE INGLÉS
5PM A 7:15PM**

**WEDNESDAY
MIÉRCOLES**

**CITIZENSHIP CLASSES/
CLASES DE CIUDADANÍA
5PM A 6PM**

**WEDNESDAY
MIÉRCOLES**

**ESL/CLASES DE INGLÉS
6PM A 7:15PM**

¡OFRECEMOS CLASES NIVEL BÁSICO Y INTERMEDIO!

¿Preguntas?

☎ (619) 232-5181

📍 2258 Island Avenue
San Diego, CA 92102

SHERMANHEIGHTSCC.ORG

HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PRESENTS

Baby Steps

CLASS INFORMATION

Currently all HDS services can be accessed virtually from the comfort of your home at no cost. For further details or to schedule a class call: (619) 525-2406, Monday (Zoom Platform)

09:00am - 10:00am (0-6 months)
Tuesday (Zoom Platform)

11:00am - 12:00pm (0-6 months)
Wednesday

11:00am - 12:00pm (0-6 months)
Thursday

09:00am - 10:00am (0-6 months)

*Schedule and availability is subject to change.



Caregivers long to provide the best for their newborn baby. Baby Steps offers groups to help caregivers learn strategies and identify support such as:

- Understand your baby's cues and how to respond to them
- Build a stronger bond with your baby
- Learn Infant Massage Techniques to help your baby relax and sleep
- Develop self-confidence in caregiving
- Connect with other caregivers

The groups are for caregivers and their children age **birth up to 15 months** (or prior to walking) and expectant caregivers. Classes are provided at no cost.

For program locations, start dates/times, and all other questions, please contact us.

Healthy Development Services
Central Region
2600 First Ave Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 525-2406








HIGHER EDUCATION NAVIGATION WORKSHOPS



SERVICES

- Assistance with application for FAFSA/CADAA
- Assistance with application for community college, university or vocational training
- Individualized information sessions on higher education
- Workshop on higher education
- Workshop on FAFSA/CADAA



SCAN ME!



ELIGIBILITY

- Ages 17+
- English Language Learners
- San Diego County Residents

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

✉ ZEYNAB.JASIM@RESOLVE.ORG ☎ (619) 663-5348

IRC Career Programs

Learn. Grow. Succeed.



NOT SURE WHERE TO START YOUR CAREER JOURNEY?

IRC San Diego supports **YOUTH** with career training, coaching, and job-ready skills

Your future career is calling



WE OFFER

- One-on-One Career Coaching
- Network of training partners
- Financial Coaching
- Job Placement Assistance
- Mentorship

Examples of Career Pathways

Healthcare (Medical Asst., Dental Asst., Pharm Tech)
Office Professional Training, Affordable Housing Manag. & Admin, Helpdesk Technician and more

Apply



Eligibility

- Youth 18-26
- Low-to-moderate income
- City of San Diego residents (priority)
- Immigrant Background
- Authorized to work in the US
- Speak, read, and write English
- Other Eligibility Criteria May Apply

contact us

Google # (619) 663-6282
Reem.Faraj@resolve.org



Partner Announcements

The Community Health & Resource Fair
1st Wednesday of Every Month



Focus On Your Overall Health

Jackie Robinson YMCA
151 YMCA Way
San Diego, CA 92102
10am - 3pm

Free Resources

- Diabetes Screening
- Blood Pressure Check
- Cholesterol Screening
- HIV & HEP-C Screening
- San Diego Humane Society
- Mammograms & Sign Up
- Breast Exams
- Vaccines Available
- Health Insurance
- Food Distribution
- Raffle Prizes

2026 Event Dates

- February 4th
- March 4th
- April 1st
- May 6th
- June 3rd
- July 1st
- August 5th
- September 2nd
- October 7th
- November 4th
- December 2nd

Dr. Science Office: drscience@ymca.org
Wendy Shurts: info@ymca.org
Healthline@gmail.com



USDA Food and Nutrition Service

SNAP COLLEGE STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

SNAP helps college students focus more on their studies and less on where their next meal will come from.

3.3 million college students were potentially eligible for SNAP in 2020

67% of those college students reported not receiving benefits



Think you might qualify?

All college students must meet the SNAP eligibility criteria to receive food assistance. If you're enrolled half-time or more, you must also meet at least ONE of the following conditions:

- Work 20+ hours per week
- Participate in a federal or state work-study program
- Have a physical or mental disability or condition that prevents you from working
- Care for a young dependent child
- Receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Enrolled in college through certain employment & training programs, such as SNAP E&T, Workforce and Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), and others
- Participate in an on-the-job training program
- Be under age 18 or over 49

Need more info?
Contact your state or local SNAP office: fns.usda.gov/snap/state-directory




SHERMAN COMEDOR

WE WARMLY INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN SHERMAN COMEDOR, OUR LUNCH AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS. SHERMAN COMEDOR OFFERS NUTRITIOUS MEALS, RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO SOCIALIZE IN A WELCOMING AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.

THIS PROGRAM IS INTENDED FOR INDIVIDUALS AGED 55 AND OLDER WHO ARE EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY.

IMPORTANT NOTICES


- ENROLLMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PARTICIPATION.
- ENROLLMENT DOES NOT GUARANTEE PARTICIPATION, AS SPACE AND RESOURCES ARE LIMITED.
- PARTICIPANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED ONCE THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED.
- THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 10, 2024, AT 11:30 AM TO 1 PM AND WILL CONTINUE WEEKLY ON TUESDAYS.

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION
↑ LOCATION: SHERMAN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER
2258 ISLAND AVENUE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92102
619 232-5181

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY!



FOOD DISTRIBUTION



1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH - GENERAL
2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH - SENIORS
9:00 - 11:00 AM

SHCC DTG SHERMAN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER
2258 ISLAND AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92102
WWW.SHERMANHEIGHTSCC.ORG

Partner Announcements

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BUILD PROGRAM

Supports small businesses and nonprofits in overcoming bonding and insurance barriers when applying for contracts with the County of San Diego.

Why It Matters?

The County has millions of dollars available, but many small organizations are held back by high bonding and insurance costs, confusing requirements, and difficulty finding the right providers.

Who Should Apply?

Small businesses and nonprofits that are:

- San Diego County-based
- Interested in County contracts
- New or First-time government contractors

What You Receive

- 1-on-1 coaching with bonding & insurance experts
- Personalized business assessment
- Guidance on affordable coverage
- Subsidies for bonding/insurance (when eligible)
- Access to Funding Readiness program



APPLY TODAY
foundersfirstcdc.org/sd-county-program


SAN DIEGO COUNTY CORE PROGRAM

What is Compliance, Operations, and Readiness Education (CORE) Program?

A free program that provides 1-1 bookkeeping support, funding readiness education, and labor compliance training in partnership with the County of San Diego.

Who Should Apply?

Small businesses that:

- Operate in San Diego County
- 2+ years in Business
- 2 - 10 Employees

What You Get

- Bookkeeping Support
- Compliance Training
- Funding Readiness Education

Why It Matters

Strengthen your operations, avoid costly mistakes, and improve financial stability.



Free bookkeeping, funding readiness education, and compliance training help small San Diego businesses operate more confidently.

APPLY TODAY
foundersfirstcdc.org/sd-county-program





BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER

The Business Resource Center is a dedicated community space for entrepreneurs at any stage to gain access to resources.

FREE RESOURCES & WORKSPACE
TAKE YOUR BUSINESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL!


Workshops

Free workshops focused on business needs for new and seasoned entrepreneurs.

1-on-1 Business Coaching

High impact coaching sessions with experts focused on the direct needs of individual business owners.

Business Needs Assessment

Free business needs assessments and referrals to community business resources that are free and low-cost.

Podcasting Equipment

Reserve space and professional recording equipment to create content that reaches new customers and engages your returning customers.

Visit Us

César E. Chávez Campus
Room 107
1901 Main St.
San Diego, CA 92113

Mon: CLOSED
Tues - Thurs: 10am - 6pm
Fri: By Appointment Only

www.theprogramlabs.org/businessresourcecenter




BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

A month-long program with workshops and mentoring designed to help you build your network, increase your confidence and scale your business.

Scan for More Info


CONNECT WITH US

César E. Chávez Campus
Room 107
1901 Main St.
San Diego, CA 92113

www.theprogramlabs.org/businessaccelerator

Alex@theprogramlabs.org

WE HELP WITH

- BUSINESS FINANCIALS**
Hands-on assistance from experts to craft a solid financial plan and budget.
- FINDING MORE CUSTOMERS**
Working sessions to build a marketing plan, brand, and outreach strategy that delivers more paying customers.
- SELLING WITH CONFIDENCE**
Development of a sales skills and processes that help you close more sales by understanding your sales pitch and customer needs.
- PERSONAL BUSINESS COACHING**
Get matched with an individual mentor and receive 1-on-1 business coaching to help you develop solid business structure and connections.

Partner Announcements



May 2026 TECH ON THE GO SCHEDULE

Our Tech on the Go program supports San Diegans who need IT assistance and is made possible through the support and sponsorship of the City of San Diego.

- Offers free basic computer skills classes.
- Provides free basic tech support (questions/how-to).
- Promotes affordable devices through our Low-Cost Computer Program.
- Partners with workforce development partners to create tech skills training.

Class Structure
Our classes can help teach you how to be confident with your devices. Our structure is as follows:

HOOR 1: Class discussion on monthly topic
HOOR 2: Q&A for basic tech questions



Location	Time	Topics
Cathy Wigger Clement Friendship Center 4425 Bannock Ave.	Monday 10 am - 12 pm	Basic Computer Series
Shawnee Heights Community Center 2308 Ward Ave.	Tuesday 10:30 am - 12:30 pm	Smartphone Basics Part 2
Valencia Park/Melcolm X Library 5148 Market St.	Thursday 10 am - 12 pm	Tablet Basics
The San Diego LGBT Community Center 3889 Centre St.	Thursday 4 pm - 6 pm	Internet Safety Part 2
City West Reader Library 3883 Coronado Ave.	Friday 10 am - 12 pm	Smartphone Basics Part 2
City Heights/Wiegman Library 2766 Fairmount Ave.	Saturday 10 am - 12 pm	Open Office Hours

**Class discussion in Spanish, Q&A is offered in Spanish and English.*



sandiego.gov/daccess

Need Tech Help and Tech Resources?

The City of San Diego and 2KIDS partner to offer free Digital Navigator services. Drop-in or call for assistance.
1(800)350-6945

MAY 2026 DIGITAL NAVIGATOR SCHEDULE

Location	Time	Services
Central Library 238 Park Blvd.	Monday: 11:30 am - 3:00 pm Tuesday: 11:30 am - 3:00 pm	English English/Vietnamese
Parkdale/Cruz Recreation Center 2811 Landis St.	Tuesday: 9:00 am - 11:45 am Thursday: 9:00 am - 11:45 am	English/Spanish English/Italian
City Heights Library 3795 Fairmount Ave.	Monday: 11:30 am - 3:00 pm Wednesday: 11:30 am - 3:00 pm	English/Spanish English/Spanish
Valencia Park/Melcolm X Library 5148 Market St.	Thursday: 11:30 am - 3:00 pm Saturday: 11:30 am - 3:00 pm	English English/Chinese/Spanish
Cathy Wigger Rec Center 4425 Bannock Ave.	Wednesday: 9:00 am - 11:45 am	English/Italian
Linda Vista Library 2188 Utric St.	Monday: 11:30 am - 3:00 pm	English/Vietnamese
Mountain View/Buckner/Orlth Library 7715 San Pasqual St.	Tuesday: 11:30 am - 3:00 pm	English
Olney West - Reader Library 3023 Coronado Ave.	Wednesday: 11:30 am - 3:00 pm	English/Spanish
San Ysidro Library 4225 Beyer Blvd.	Thursday: 11:30 am - 3:00 pm	English/Spanish

**Services will be closed on Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day.*



DIGITAL NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Got tech questions? We've got answers!

Visit us at select libraries and locations around the city to learn about discounted internet, low-cost computers and get one-on-one tech support. Scan the QR code for this month's schedule.



Call our helpline to learn more
1-800-350-6945



English | Spanish | Tagalog | Cantonese | Urdu | Hindi




Free Wifi at Bus Stops

San Diego Promise Zone bus stops have free wifi for you to use. Visit these stops whenever you're out and about!

Partner Announcements

P2PH-Empower: Pathways to Public Health Summer Workshop

SDSU School of Public Health

Join the SDSU School of Public Health for a Summer Workshop Open to students:

- Currently in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade
- Interested in exploring the multidisciplinary field of public health
- Committed to making a difference in their community!

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- What public health is and why it matters
- Hands-on activities: data analysis, case studies, and field trips
- Hear from current SDSU School of Public Health undergraduate students and Public Health Professionals

Join us for a **free** workshop
JUNE 15-18, 2026 San Diego State University

Please visit our website for more information!



<https://p2ph.empower.sdsu.edu> @SDSU_SPH UNDERGROUND

Golden Pyramid Scholars & College Signing Day Program

Urban League San Diego County San Diego Foundation University of San Diego

Sunday, May 17, 2026, 2:00 pm
 at the University of San Diego
 Shiley Theatre, 5888 Arcadia Park San Diego, CA 92161

Application Now Open

Things that set us apart:

- Scholarships
- Motivational Messages
- Financial Assistance
- Mentorship Opportunities
- Networking and Community

Use the QR Code or the Link Below
<https://form.jifarm.com/26075227826142>

kea@sdsu.org

SDGE **USDC**

WWW.SDSU.ORG

PROJECT READY 2.5

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

ENROLLMENT OPEN NOW

Education Youth Advocacy Program
 The Urban League of San Diego County and Doors of Change are partnering to support youth who face multiple barriers, including housing and learning challenges.

Ages 14-24

Free! Provided Cell Card! Mobile Device!

- Safe Shelter & Housing Assistance
- Access to Basic Needs (e.g. Food, Clothing...)
- College & Care & Career Readiness
- Life Skills, Social Justice, Leadership Skills & Mentorship

SCAN HERE

Register Now!

<https://tblf.org/col-or-2.5-pathways-to-success/>

Urban League San Diego County lea@sdsu.org (619) 266-4227 www.tblf.org

Case Manager @tblf@san.org (760) 611-9889 www.doorsofchange.org

ULSDC PROJECT READY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Urban League San Diego County

Register Today for Open Enrollment for New & Continuing Students

In-person - Free

This program focuses on:

- Mentorship,
- Leadership Development,
- Historical and Cultural Literacy,
- Scholarships and Money for College,
- College Tours,
- National Urban League Youth Summit (Travel out of Town & Stay on a college campus with 300 plus students)
- National Case Competitions, and
- Career Preparation & Exploration
- Social Justice & Public Speaking
- Incentives, Swag, Gift Cards, and Money for College

REGISTER TODAY USING QR CODE

<https://form.jifarm.com/23043087082034>

Contact Kea Hagan at:
 619.266.6265; kea@sdsu.org

Partner Announcements



Beginning July 23, 2025! **I AM HERE: Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth**

A free, dedicated state-specific legal assistance hotline for youth experiencing homelessness.

1-800-870-DOCS

**Calls are welcome and will be returned.*

I AM HERE: Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth | 1-800-870-DOCS

We are excited to announce a new hotline for youth experiencing homelessness! The [I AM HERE: Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth](#) is a partnership between the National Network for Youth and Baker McKenzie.

- **Phone Number:** 1-800-870-DOCS (1-800-870-3627)
- **Start Date:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025
- **Hours:** Every Wednesday from 12 to 8 PM Eastern | 11 AM to 7 PM Central | 10 AM to 6 PM Mountain | 9 AM to 5 PM Pacific
- **Voice-mails:** Outside of working hours, callers can leave voice-mails that will be returned.
- **Callers:** Young people experiencing homelessness.
- **Phone Operators:** Legal professionals from Baker McKenzie and pro bono lawyers from other corporations.
- **Goal:** Provide state-specific guidance on obtaining vital documents.



UDW RESOURCE CENTER **UDW**

FAMILY CHILD CARE EDUCATOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Do you want to pursue a career in Early Childhood Education and want to have your own business?

Apprentices will get hands-on training on how to start and manage your own Family Child Care businesses while working as assistants.

JOIN OUR INTEREST LIST!

WHAT WE OFFER:

- Accredited College Courses
- On-the-job paid training and stipends as an apprentice.
- Business Management Training
- A Community of Support

MORE INFORMATION:

- ☎ (609) 381-4277
- ✉ shemando@udwresourcecenter.org

www.udwresourcecenter.org 7777 Alvarado Rd Suite 104, La Mesa, CA 91942 (By appointment only)



LOW COST

COUNSELING SERVICES

SDVLP CENTER FOR COMMUNITY COUNSELING AND ENGAGEMENT

We offer **online and in-person** appointments. Come and talk with our counselors about life stress, political worries, work anxiety, coming out, relationship challenges, parenting stress, or ANY other issue.

- ✓ INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING
- ✓ COUPLES COUNSELING
- ✓ FAMILY THERAPY
- ✓ \$15 PER SESSION

CONTACT US

Web: www.sdvlp.edu.edu Phone Number: 619-594-6018 Location: 4283 El Cajon Blvd, #215 San Diego, CA 92105



LH LOGAN HEIGHTS **Legal Services** **SDVLP**

WALK-IN OFFICE HOURS

2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
9AM - 12 PM
3040 IMPERIAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92102

! The San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program provides free legal services for micro-businesses and nonprofits every second Wednesday of the month.

Don't miss this opportunity to obtain expert legal advice and support!

SERVICIOS SIN CITA PREVIA

2DO MIERCOLES DE CADA MES
9AM - 12 PM
3040 IMPERIAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92102

! San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program ofrece servicios legales gratuitos para micro-empresas y ONGs el segundo miércoles de cada mes.

¡No pierdas esta oportunidad de obtener asesoramiento legal!

Partner Announcements

COMMUNITY POWER EFFICIENT REFRIGERATION PROGRAM



Who is San Diego Community Power?
San Diego Community Power is your community-driven clean energy provider. We are a locally run, not-for-profit public agency serving the San Diego region with cleaner energy and reinvesting in our community through customer programs.

About Community Power's Efficient Refrigeration Program
Community Power is providing energy-efficient refrigerators and freezers at no cost to corner stores to stock California-grown fresh foods, thanks to funding from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

What Do You Get?

- Up to two pieces of equipment
View available equipment on back
- Energy assessment of your store (optional)
- Resources on sourcing, stocking and selling produce

Why Apply?
In 2022, the Nutrition Policy Institute surveyed 32 storeowners from the CDFA Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program.

- 78% Increase in customers
- 94% Increase in ability to sell produce
- 97% Satisfaction rate
- 79% Increase in profitability

Eligibility

- Corner store or small business
- Located in a low-income or low-food access area
- Sells or donates a limited selection of foods and other products
- Currently accepts or is in the process of applying for EBT/SNAP/CalFresh benefits
- Must be a Community Power customer

Program Availability Limited

Scan the QR code or visit the link to apply.



<https://communitypower.org/efficient-refrigeration>

Serving Older Adults and Veterans 60+



JFS Fix-It Service

Helping You Lead A Safe & Independent Life At Home



When you or someone you care about is concerned about fall prevention, JFS Fix-It Service provides a four-point safety check, along with minor safety repairs and modifications to improve your mobility and security at home. All services are completed free-of-charge by our amazing volunteers.

No Cost Safety Items For Low-Income Older Adults

- Help with task lighting/highlights/light bulbs
- Small cooking appliances - such as toaster ovens and microwaves
- Bathroom safety items - such as shower chairs, non-slip rugs, and safety rails
- Cleaning equipment - such as carpet sweepers, microfiber mops, and vacuums
- Portable heating/cooling units - such as room fans and small heaters
- Carts to help transport laundry and groceries

(858) 637-3210 • www.jfssd.org/FixIt

Program funded by a grant from San Diego County Aging and Independence Services to provide relief to unpaid caregivers of people aged 60 and older. A caregiver can be a friend or neighbor who checks in by phone or in person.



MAAG NEXT LEVEL & GRID ALTERNATIVES PRESENT

THE FUTURE OF SOLAR JOBS

Learn to install solar panels and gain valuable skills for a growing industry. Get support services to help you succeed.

- Hands On Training**
Learn practical skills from experienced instructors in a real-world setting.
- Support Services**
Get help with resume writing, interview preparation, and additional supports to secure your next job.
- Career Advancement**
Build your skills and knowledge to advance your career in the clean energy field.

CONTACT US

Next Level
1400 Mission Road
San Diego, CA 92108
www.nextlevel.org

Grid Alternatives
1400 Mission Road
San Diego, CA 92108
www.gridalternatives.org

ELIGIBILITY

- 18+ years of age
- Unemployed or Underemployed
- Low Income
- Authorized to work in the US
- High School/GED Preferred



CONTACT US:  

HOUSING OUR YOUTH

YMCA YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES



The Housing Our Youth (HOY) program offers specialized support for youth and young adults ages 18-24 in San Diego County who are at risk of, or currently experiencing, homelessness. Participants enrolled in the program may receive services such as housing assistance and connection, resource navigation, employment and education support, and other wraparound services tailored to help them achieve stable housing and work toward self-sufficiency. For more information or to explore enrollment in the program, scan the QR code below to complete an inquiry form.

WHO DO WE SERVE?
Young adults up to and including the age of 24, who are facing homelessness throughout San Diego County.



WHAT SERVICES DO WE OFFER?
HOY staff provide housing assistance and provide youth with the skills and tools to lead a financially independent and successful life. Our services include:

- Housing assistance
- Financial literacy
- Job training
- Case management
- Resource navigation
- Employment support
- Education support
- Food bank
- Substance use treatment

Youth & Family Services is the lead organization for this project. We are working in collaboration with youth-serving organizations across the entire San Diego County. Members of the Housing Our Youth Collaborative include:

- Home Depot
- North County Children
- San Diego LGBT Community Center
- San Diego Youth Services
- SDA
- San Diego County Health
- YMCA Youth & Family Services



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Scan our QR code to view our HOY Inquiry Interest Form or Contact Social Worker at (619) 444-8126. Questions can be sent to hoyp@ymcausa.org



Partner Announcements



SENIOR SOLUTIONS

TRAVELERS AID SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

What We Provide

- Quick in-take assessment to identify your transportation needs
- Transportation solutions on the spot:
 - SOM Pronto cards
 - MTS Access Tickets
 - MTS Day Passes

TO QUALIFY:

- Extremely low income
- Reside housed/unhoused in Promise Zone
- Immunocompromising condition
- Proof of medical/housing appointment

Walk-In Services
(No appointment needed)
 Location: 1501/1 Imperial Ave
 San Diego, CA 92101

Mondays from 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Wednesdays from 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Thursdays from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

*Subject to change. Call to verify date and hours!
 Funding by the San Diego Promise Zone
 Partner: Jewish Family Service
 #JFSinSD

For More Information:
 Email: lorene@travelersaidofsandiego.org
 Phone: (619) 295-8393 ext. 306



JFS AGING CARE SERVICES

Jewish Family Service
Moving Forward Together

Helping You Lead a Safe and Independent Life at Home

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, falls are the leading cause of injury for older adults, and 80% of those falls happen at home. Jewish Family Service is dedicated to keeping older community members safe at home by taking steps to prevent accidents and injury.

In partnership with the City of San Diego, we offer the following items at no cost for low-income older adults.

- Bathroom safety non-install items, such as shower chairs, nightlights, non-slip mats, and support rails
- Cane and walkers
- Carts for transporting groceries and laundry
- Small cooking appliances, such as toaster ovens and microwaves
- Portable heating and cooling units, such as room fans and small heaters

To request any of the items listed above and learn how we can make living at home even safer, call (619) 437-3210.

The City of SAN DIEGO



SAN YSIDRO HEALTH | MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES

San Ysidro Health operates Mobile Health Services Units, providing healthcare services to children aged 2 months to 17 years in San Diego County.

OUR SERVICES:

- Well Child Visits (2 months - 17 years)
- Immunizations (bring your child's shot record)
- Minor Sick Visits
- Sports Physicals
- TB Testing (All ages)
- WNC Hemoglobin Test

For more information scan the QR Code or visit
<https://www.syhealth.org/miss/>
 mobile health services

Office Hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
 To schedule an appointment or more information please call (619) 442-4199

Medi-Cal and Uninsured accepted

www.syhealth.org | Follow us @sanysidrohealth

IRC Career Programs
 Learn. Grow. Succeed.

START A CAREER IN HEALTHCARE

Certified Medical Assistant
 Certified Nurse Assistant
 Dental Assistant and more

Career help for ages 18-24, get started now

WE OFFER

- One-on-One Career Coaching
- Network of training partners
- Financial Coaching
- Job Placement Assistance
- Mentorship

Eligibility

Youth 18-24
 Immigration Background
 Authorized to work in the US
 Speak, read, and write English
 Other Eligibility Criteria - [Apply](#)

Apply

Contact Us

Google # (619) 663-8182
 Reem.Faraj@rescue.org

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Workforce Development Board

The California Workforce Development Board (CWDB), in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is pleased to announce the availability of \$8 million in grant funding for Round One of the High Road to Construction Careers 2026 (HRCC 2026) Grant Program, a California Jobs First Initiative.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified

Deadline: May 6, 2026



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is searching for proposals from community-based organizations and community-research partnerships. They are looking forward to hearing from people directly affected by policies that undermine and weaken health equity, and who are ready to take action in response.

Award Amount: Up to \$500,000

Deadline: May 14, 2026



Foundation for Improvement of Justice

The Foundation for Improvement of Justice rewards innovative and effective programs that have made a positive difference in U.S. criminal and civil justice systems. Awards are open to all individuals, programs, and organizations in the United States working in areas such as legal reform, crime prevention, child protection, alternative sentencing, and crime victims' rights. Each award package includes a \$15,000 check, a Paul H. Chapman Medal, and an expenses-paid trip to the awards banquet in Atlanta, Georgia.

Award Amount: \$15,000

Deadline: May 15, 2026





INSIDER TIP!



The Promise Zone can support Partner grant applications by providing a Letter of Support! Reach out to Chris at ChSanchez@sandiego.gov for more information.

National Performance Network

The National Performance Network's Creation & Development Fund supports the creation, development, and mobility of new artistic work that fosters community-centered experiences and advances racial and cultural justice. Funding is available in two stages: a Creation Fund providing a minimum of \$15,000 in unrestricted support for works in their earliest stages, and a Development Fund open to previous Creation Fund recipients to prepare work for public engagement.

Award Amount: Minimum of \$15,000
Deadline: May 16, 2026



Next Generation Warning System Grant Program – CFO

The purpose of the NGWS Grant Program is to enhance public safety in California by implementing alert and warning solutions that deliver timely emergency information to the public and help protect critical infrastructure. This effort supports a reliable, resilient, and consistent capability for local, state, territorial, tribal, and federal public safety officials to effectively communicate public warnings and emergency information.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified
Deadline: May 22, 2026




Department of Health and Human Services

The National Library of Medicine's Information Resource Grants support projects that develop and disseminate accurate, evidence-based health information to populations experiencing health disparities and their healthcare providers. Funded projects should use information technology and medical libraries to create new or expanded resources that improve health literacy and reduce disparities. Eligible applicants include nonprofits, government entities, higher education institutions, Tribal organizations, and faith- and community-based organizations.

Award Amount: Up to \$200,000
Deadline: May 25, 2026



Department of Transportation: Safe Streets and Roads for All


 The Safe Streets and Roads for All program provides competitive grants to support planning, demonstration, and implementation projects aimed at reducing traffic-related deaths and serious injuries. Funding is available to a range of public entities, including local governments, tribal governments, school districts, and metropolitan planning organizations. Projects should advance strategies that improve safety for all road users.

Award Amount: \$100,000 – \$25,000,000

Deadline: May 26, 2026



Department of Health Care Services


 The CSSA Cohort 2.0 grant supports youth-serving non-profit community or tribal organizations, or counties implementing Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUBG)-funded prevention programs in California to strengthen and evaluate innovative substance use prevention programs. Funding and technical assistance will help build evidence of effectiveness and expand youth and young adult prevention efforts statewide.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified

Deadline: May 29, 2026



All Points North Foundation

 The All Points North Foundation supports U.S.-based projects that strengthen public middle school education and teacher training in underserved urban and rural communities. Funding focuses on two priorities: programs that prepare and retain effective middle school teachers, and initiatives that support students' academic, social, and emotional growth.

Award Amount: \$60,000 – \$100,000

Deadline: June 1, 2026





INSIDER TIP!



The Promise Zone can support Partner grant applications by providing a Letter of Support! Reach out to promiszone@sandiego.gov for more information.



Henry M. Jackson Foundation

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation supports nonprofits and think tanks working on values-based leadership, climate change mitigation, and human rights and international relations. Strategic Initiative Grants may be used to fund forums, convenings, conferences, and public programs that bring experts together around policy issues. Larger general operating grants are also available to organizations closely aligned with the Foundation's mission.

Award Amount: Over \$10,000
Deadline: June 1, 2026




CA State Library

Public libraries provide access to digital resources and the skills to safely use those resources, which are key components of the Broadband for All Initiative. The goals of this opportunity are to help libraries improve access to high-speed broadband and improve digital literacy in their communities.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified
Deadline: June 3, 2026





Amazon Web Services: Imagine Grant

The Amazon Web Services Imagine Grant supports registered nonprofits using cloud technology to accelerate their missions through pilot projects, proofs of concept, or expanded programs. U.S. organizations may apply for one of three award categories: the Pathfinder Award for frontier AI projects, the Go Further, Faster Award for innovative cloud and machine learning initiatives, and the Momentum to Modernize Award for foundational technology and infrastructure improvements.

Award Amount: Up to \$200,000
Deadline: June 5, 2026



The Promise Zone can support Partner grant applications by providing a Letter of Support! Reach out to promiszone@sandiego.gov for more information.

Barbara McDowell Social Justice Center

The Barbara McDowell Social Justice Center awards grants to organizations undertaking systemic social justice litigation across fifteen issue areas, including housing, healthcare, disability rights, environmental justice, immigration, voting rights, and Native American rights. Applications must be for a specific legal case or appeal, and grant funds may be used for attorney time and litigation expenses.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified

Deadline: June 15, 2026



Department of Justice

The California Department of Justice (DOJ) Tobacco Grant Program (TGP) supports local law enforcement efforts to reduce illegal sale and marketing of tobacco products to youth and to enforce state tobacco products to youth and to enforce state tobacco control laws.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified

Deadline: June 19, 2026



National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities offers Media Projects grants to support the development, production, and distribution of radio programs, podcasts, and documentary films. The program aims to engage broad audiences with humanities ideas through compelling and accessible storytelling. Funding is available at two levels: Development and Production. Eligible applicants include nonprofits, educational institutions, and government entities.

Award Amount: Up to \$700,000

Deadline: June 25, 2026





INSIDER TIP!



The Promise Zone can support Partner grant applications by providing a Letter of Support! Reach out to promiszone@sandiego.gov for more information.



Justin Brooks Fisher Foundation

The Justin Brooks Fisher Foundation supports organizations and initiatives across the United States working to address the climate crisis. Funding priorities include conservation, environmental education, innovative strategies to slow climate change, and wildfire resiliency. Program support, operating support, and capital support are all available.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified
Deadline: July 1, 2026



Park Foundation

The Park Foundation supports organizations working on environmental protection, civic participation, media, democracy, and animal welfare at the national level. Funding spans a broad range of issues, including drinking water policy, fossil fuel resistance, voter rights, election integrity, and investigative journalism.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified
Deadline: July 8, 2026



Black Voices for Black Justice Fund

The Black Voices for Black Justice Fund provides flexible, unrestricted grants to Black social entrepreneurs advancing racial justice across fields, including criminal justice reform, democracy, education, environmental justice, health equity, housing, and the arts. The Fund addresses historic underinvestment in Black-led organizations by elevating influential voices and backing initiatives that build economic and political power in communities affected by systemic racism. Grants are awarded through a nomination-based process.

Award Amount: \$20,000 or \$50,000
Deadline: Rolling





INSIDER TIP!



The Promise Zone can support Partner grant applications by providing a Letter of Support! Reach out to promiszone@sandiego.gov for more information.

California STEP Program

The California State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) provides funding to help small businesses expand into global markets by increasing the number of California exporters and the volume of goods and services they trade. Eligible businesses may participate in up to two trade events per fiscal year and receive up to 75% reimbursement (up to \$10,000) for approved export-related expenses.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified

Deadline: Rolling



Kitchens for Good Microenterprise (ME) Program

Kitchens for Good's ME program accepts early-stage food entrepreneurs in San Diego, focusing on those who have experienced barriers to accessing the resources and support needed to start their small business.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified

Deadline: Rolling



Wish Local Empowerment Program

The Wish Local Empowerment Program provides grants to support Black-owned brick-and-mortar retail businesses across the United States. The \$2 million fund awards approximately 4,000 grants to help cover operating expenses such as workforce retention, rent, inventory, customer outreach, and community engagement. The program aims to promote equity and strengthen diversity in entrepreneurship. Eligible businesses must have 20 or fewer employees and annual revenue under \$1 million.

Award Amount: \$500 - \$2,000

Deadline: Rolling



The Promise Zone can support Partner grant applications by providing a Letter of Support!
Reach out to promiszone@sandiego.gov for more information.



Department of Housing and Community Development

The state HOME program provides funding for housing rehabilitation, new construction, and acquisition and rehabilitation for multifamily projects; new construction and down payment assistance for single-family projects; first-time homebuyer down payment assistance, owner-occupied rehabilitation and tenant-based rental assistance programs; and predevelopment loans to CHDOs. All activities must benefit low-income renters, homebuyers or homeowners.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified
Deadline: Rolling



South County EDC: Recovery Loan Program

The South County Economic Development Council offers \$10,000-dollar recovery loans to support South County businesses investing in operational improvements, new equipment, or staff as they continue recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Loans feature a 48-month term, with no interest charged if repaid within the first 12 months; remaining balances after one year are financed over 36 months at a 5 percent interest rate.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified
Deadline: Rolling



Catalyst of San Diego and Imperial Counties

The Sustained Support Fund, provided by Catalyst of San Diego and Imperial Counties, offers short-term, zero-interest, recoverable grants of up to \$100,000 to nonprofits, fiscally sponsored organizations, and tribal governments in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Funding supports cash flow needs while organizations await committed revenue expected within 90 days, with priority for those affected by federal funding or policy changes since January 2025.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified
Deadline: Rolling





INSIDER TIP!



The Promise Zone can support Partner grant applications by providing a Letter of Support!
Reach out to promiszone@sandiego.gov for more information.

Community Enhancement Grant

The County of San Diego provides funding through the Community Enhancement Program to support nonprofit organizations and public agencies that stimulate tourism, promote the local economy, create jobs, and enhance quality of life.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified

Deadline: Rolling



Spaces as Places Outdoor Business Grant

The City of San Diego's Economic Development Department is offering grants of up to \$20,000 to help eligible businesses expand operations outdoors through the Spaces as Places program. Funding supports the creation of outdoor dining and community gathering spaces in the public right-of-way, with priority given to businesses located in underserved communities.

Award Amount: Award Amount Not Specified

Deadline: Rolling



CAPACITY BUILDING RESOURCES

- **Digital Assessment Tool**: Discover your nonprofit's path to digital transformation — for free with TechSoup's Digital Assessment Tool (DAT) to identify your needs and find the best resources to meet them.
- **National Center for Cultural Competence**: The mission of the NCCC is to increase the capacity of health care and mental health care programs to design, implement, and evaluate culturally and linguistically competent service delivery systems to address growing diversity, persistent disparities, and to promote health and mental health equity.
- **How to Build a Truly Inclusive Nonprofit Volunteer Program**: Writers Faiza Venzant and Mark Hager dive into the challenges and best practices for developing a diverse volunteer program.





Economic Development Department staff at EDD Day in 2025.



City Spotlight: Economic Development

For the past decade, the Economic Development Department has played a central leadership role in providing resources and supporting community-driven initiatives throughout the Promise Zone. As our grand finale, we're shining a light on the depth and breadth of this dynamic department and its 135 champions of progress working every day to support San Diego communities.

The Economic Development Department (EDD) leads the City's efforts in Community and Business Engagement, Airport Operations, Real Estate, Cultural Affairs, and Strategic Partnerships.

The **Business Operations & Support Services (BOSS)** division is the engine that keeps EDD running. Its core functions of financial administration, internal operations, and fiscal gymnastics bring EDD's vision to life. From budgeting and grants management to purchase requisitions, information technology projects, records management, and payroll, BOSS supports the entire department to promote economic vibrancy and opportunity in every San Diego neighborhood. These colleagues don't just work with spreadsheets! BOSS is deeply proud to support the Promise Zone's community-driven efforts, including:

- In 2025, distributing 11 microgrants totaling \$109,000 for the Promise Zone Community Partner Growth Fund, ensuring vital financial resources reached the organizations doing critical work in our neighborhoods.
- Volunteering at the Promise Zone Youth-Led Career Expo, supporting check-ins and speaking on the Young Professionals Panel to help local students navigate their future career paths.

Did you know the City of San Diego operates two general aviation airports? The **Airports** division operates Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport (MYF) and Brown Field Airport (SDM). These airports generate substantial economic and employment benefits for residents throughout San Diego, including those within the Promise Zone. Both airports contribute to



Student pilots pose for a graduation photo - EDD staff join Cal Coast staff at the Logan Heights' branch opening

employment, tourism, entrepreneurship, and education, while also serving a critical public safety role as bases for San Diego Fire-Rescue Department helicopter operations.

In partnership with public and private organizations, the airports play a key role in workforce development by supporting training for pilots, aircraft mechanics, air traffic controllers, and other aviation professionals. For example, San Diego Miramar College, located at MYF, offers an Aviation Maintenance Technology program that prepares students for well-paying careers in aircraft maintenance. At SDM, Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 14 hosts the Young Eagles Program, providing free introductory flights and scholarships to youth ages 8 to 17 to inspire future careers in aviation. Additionally, multiple flight schools at both airports offer training opportunities for residents pursuing pilot certification. For more information about our airports and the services they offer, please visit www.sandiego.gov/airports.

Part of the Real Estate division, the **Strategic Partnerships** team explores innovative revenue-generating marketing partnerships with corporations. A standout example is the City's partnership with [California Coast Credit Union](#). Cal Coast is the spice in the Promise Zone stew! Their generous support has elevated the Youth-Led Career Expo, sponsored microgrants for Promise Zone partners, and delivered robust financial literacy programming. And, in August 2025, Cal Coast opened a new branch in Logan Heights (in the Promise Zone)! Click [here](#) to learn more about Strategic Partnerships.

While we're on the subject of opening new businesses, the **Business Expansion, Attraction, and Retention** (BEAR) team provides technical assistance to San Diego's businesses and nonprofits. Services include permit and grant application support, policy advocacy, and utilities coordination. BEAR also administers a suite of ongoing grant and incentive programs, including the Capacity Building Grant, which encourages inclusive economic growth by expanding opportunities for businesses to attract customers, grow their businesses and build entrepreneurial skills. In recent years, \$1,189,995.00 in Capacity Building Grant funding has been awarded to projects within the Promise Zone!

This team is also the backbone to our business improvement and maintenance assessment districts. Assessments are collected through the city and then disbursed to managing nonprofit organizations that ensure those dollars add value back to the business corridors and neighborhoods where those assessments were collected.



SDPZ team members on a Business Walk - Tribal Shields for Common Ground - EDD receives SBDC Award

The **Cultural Affairs** team boosts San Diego's creative economy by investing in artists, cultural organizations and creative workforce development. The recently approved Creative City plan aims to keep artists and creatives rooted in San Diego. Cultural Affairs also stewards the City's large civic art collection shown on City properties. If you've ever been to the parking garage of the San Diego Police Department Central Division in the Promise Zone, you've seen one of over 800 works in the collection, called Tribal Shields for Common Ground.

Who is responsible for overseeing all of those City properties where the civic art collection lives? The EDD **Real Estate** Division, which has specialized teams in Lease Administration, Municipal Asset Services, Acquisitions and Dispositions (including Successor Agency), manages the City's real estate portfolio. This portfolio includes all the facilities necessary to provide government functions – parks, police stations, fire stations, libraries, maintenance yards and administrative space. If you've seen a concert at the sports arena, cheered for the Padres at the baseball stadium, checked out a library book, brought your kiddo to a basketball banquet at a rec center, or paid a water bill in person, the Real Estate team has touched you in some way. City properties support over 800 leases and agreements, generating revenue and providing community-based services. When a property is no longer needed, it may be declared surplus property and made available for affordable housing development.

This brings us back to the **Community Development** (CD) unit. This team administers federal entitlement grants for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. With these federal grants, CD partners with nonprofits, public agencies and housing developers to expand affordable housing, improve infrastructure, support economic growth and deliver essential services for low- and moderate-income residents. To explore the community impact of these funds, see the most recent five-year Investment Summary Story Map. Since 2016, over \$44.6 million in Community Development Block Grants has been awarded to 22 nonprofit organizations and six City projects in the Promise Zone!

Just as the power of collaboration has been evidenced in the Promise Zone, this collective impact can be seen in EDD. The Bridge to Home program is a clear example of the intersection of our efforts – a property can be declared surplus land, made available for a developer to acquire for affordable housing, and supported with a Bridge to Home loan for acquisition and construction of new affordable apartments. Since 2021, Bridge to Home has helped complete 561 new affordable homes, and 1,978 more are currently under construction or in the process of finalizing their financing.

Civic Engagement in the Promise Zone

1

City of San Diego Crosswalk and Stop Sign Policy Survey

Provide feedback about the City's process for approving crosswalks and stop signs.

Council Policy 200-07: Marked Crosswalk Criteria at Uncontrolled Locations was first adopted in 1962 and was most recently updated in 2015.

Council Policy 200-08: Criteria for the Installation of Stop Signs was also first adopted in 1962, and was most recently amended in 1997.

Take the survey.



2

Community Input on City Budget

As the City of San Diego develops the annual budget for the next fiscal year, Mayor Todd Gloria is asking San Diegans to provide feedback that will help determine which programs and services are prioritized and which are reduced.

Residents who live within San Diego city limits are invited to take the five-minute survey at sandiego.gov/BudgetSurvey until the beginning of May 2026.



Civic Engagement in the Promise Zone

3

Open Consolidated Plan Advisory Board Positions

The **Consolidated Plan Advisory Board (CPAB)** serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor/City Manager and City Council on policy issues related to the allocation of federal U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants.

There is **one vacancy** in the Promise Zone:
Council District 9 (Councilmember Sean Elo-Rivera)

If you are interested in serving on the Consolidated Plan Advisory Board, an application may be submitted online and is available here: onboard.sandiego.gov.

For more information about the role of a CPAB member, email Nadine Hassoun at NHassoun@sandiego.gov.



4 Use the Get It Done App

It's simple and easy to connect with the City:

- **Report** non-emergency problems.
- **Schedule** appointments.
- **Obtain** information.

sandiego.gov/get-it-done

or download your mobile app today!
"Get it Done San Diego!"





ABOUT THE PROMISE ZONE

In 2016, the San Diego Promise Zone became one of 22 federally designated Promise Zones in the United States and one of only four in California. The San Diego Promise Zone covers a 6.4-square-mile targeted area with more than 80,000 residents that spans East Village and Barrio Logan east to Encanto. It is home to the City's most culturally rich and ethnically diverse neighborhoods but also some of the most under-resourced communities.

Between 2016 and 2023, the unemployment rate decreased from 14% to 10%, and the poverty rate fell from 35% to 20% (ACS, 2016-22). We recognize there are many factors that contribute to these numbers. We do know that in the eight years since the designation, targeted efforts from the City and CBOs have supported improvement in these areas; however, we recognize there is still plenty of work to do to continue advocating for our Promise Zone residents.

Through the [Promise Zone initiative](#), community-based organizations (CBOs), direct service providers, residents and business owners work with government agencies to enhance collective impact, streamline resources and deliver comprehensive support.

- Increase access to healthy foods.
- Improve access to healthcare.
- Support opportunities for active transportation and active living.
- Dialogue with residents.
- Create environments conducive to learning and working.
- Improve infrastructure.
- Increase and improve access to capital.

WORKING GROUP GOALS





Promise Zone Staff

Amber Joy Weber, **Promise Zone Program Manager** / AJWeber@san Diego.gov

Chrishael Rose Sanchez, **Grants & Research Associate VISTA** / ChSanchez@san Diego.gov

Roosevelt Williams III, **Community Development Specialist** / RooseveltW@san Diego.gov

Looking Ahead

While the Promise Zone designation is ending, the City of San Diego's Economic Development Department programs and services will remain accessible to *all* members of the community. The City of San Diego will remain an active partner supporting the community-powered San Diego Promise Zone Alliance.

*"Thank you, San Diego Promise Zone and partners,
for a decade of opportunities to advance our mission!"
- the Economic Development Department*

