



City of San Diego Crime-Free Multi-housing Program



Working to Keep Illegal Activity Out of Rental Property

The City of San Diego's Crime-free Multi-housing (CFMH) Program is a FREE program and a win, win crime prevention tool for apartment communities. The CFMH Program is successful because it approaches crime on many levels. The Police Department can't solve crime alone, and neither can management staff or residents of rental properties. However, by working together, the end result has been the most successful approach to deterring crime in rental properties.

There are three ways criminal activity occurs on a rental property:

1. The criminal lives there.
2. The criminal visits a friend or family member who lives there.
3. A criminal comes to the property and commits a crime.

The Crime-free Multi-housing Program addresses all three of these possibilities. By implementing the CFMH Program, property owners and management staff reduce the likelihood of crime and reduce the number of visitors who come to the property with criminal intent, such as to purchase or sell drugs.

Integral to the CFMH Program are the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles that, when implemented, help to deter crime from occurring on the property, including in parking lots and the common areas.

Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) San Diego (www.saysandiego.org), a Social Services Agency, is a collaborative partner with the San Diego Police Department to administer the CFMH Program. The relationship between SDPD and SAY San Diego, under a Memorandum of Understanding, is unique and ensures successful implementation of the CFMH Program and long-term support to the management staff at apartment communities within the program.

The CFMH Program consists of three phases that are implemented under the supervision of the San Diego Police Department. Property managers become certified after completing Phase I Manager Training, and the property becomes certified upon successful completion of Phase II CPTED & Phase III Resident Engagement.

Phase I Manager Training: Facilitated by a Certified Crime-free Coordinator, it is an eight-hour class that owners, managers, security and maintenance staff are invited to attend.

Phase II CPTED Inspection: An inspection to determine if the property meets the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

Phase III Resident Engagement and Full Certification: A safety social facilitated by the Community Relations Officer (CRO) and a SAY San Diego staff member. This event provides an opportunity for residents to become familiar with the CFMH Program and to understand that they are partners in keeping themselves and the property safe. The property receives certification and a sign for the building. Certification is renewed annually.

If law enforcement, property managers and residents make a dedicated commitment to the Crime-free Multi-housing Program with the principal guideline of crime prevention, the result will be safer apartment communities.

If you would like more information about the Crime-free Multi-housing Program, please contact one of the Program's Coordinators:

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