

HUD Funding Covers Current Lease Costs, Shopping Vouchers

As Congress continues wrangling over non-defense discretionary federal budget allocations and our community wrestles with a seemingly intractable housing crisis, SCCHA's fiscal year began July 1 with the Board's adoption of a balanced FY 2018 operating budget. This operating budget is based on the projection of federal funds we anticipate receiving from our Moving to Work (MTW) contract with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), other federal grants, and local funds that we anticipate earning from the agency's real estate development, preservation and asset management activities.

In mid-July, we finally received our 2017 funding levels from HUD and now are able to project sufficient funds for all 15,715 current vouchers (*as of May 31*) as well as 564 families with shopping vouchers who are looking for housing.

More good news: We have a higher than expected proration (*96% of eligible funds*) for CY 2017 as a result of Washington, D.C., compromises. So, in addition to the 933 vouchers currently committed to projects that will increase the supply of affordable housing throughout the county, we are considering how we can help produce more affordable housing in the community in connection with Santa Clara County's \$950 million Measure A housing bond funds.

No matter what happens in Washington, we take our obligation to be the housing safety net for thousands of families very seriously. Because we expect to see a slow contraction of this federal program with the current administration, we've instituted some conservation measures to ensure we maintain our sound fiscal condition and can respond to future funding challenges. In addition to honoring all voucher commitments, these measures include not releasing vouchers to the wait list at this time; maintaining the current 32% tenant rent portion; and maintaining our subsidy level at the HUD minimum of two persons per room.

We'll continue to provide updates on our progress to meet our county's critical need for more affordable housing.

Katherine Harasz, *Executive Director*

SCCHA Awards \$50,000 in Strive Program Scholarships

In honor of the agency's yearlong 50th anniversary celebration, SCCHA has awarded a total of \$50,000 in educational scholarships to 50 dedicated students through our 2017 Strive scholarship program. The agency's Strive program provides financial assistance to Section 8 tenants or tenants of rental properties affiliated with SCCHA in support of their pursuit of post-secondary education.

We are excited to be celebrating the role affordable housing has played in helping our recipients strive toward lofty educational goals. This year's applicant pool was one of our strongest yet, with 20 students working toward careers in medicine or another STEM (*science, technology, engineering and mathematics*) field, six in legal or public policy, and six in business. They are attending an impressive range of colleges: 33 students will be

Loving and O'Neal Elected Chair and Vice Chair of Board

Commissioners Jennifer Loving and Denis G. O'Neal were elected chair and vice chair of SCCHA's Board at the June 27 meeting. The new chair/vice chair team succeeds Kathy Espinoza-Howard and William Anderson, both of whom are remaining on the Board.

Loving brings to her new role extensive knowledge of the nonprofit community and the agency's government partners. As executive director of the public-private partnership Destination:Home since 2010, she has brought together public officials, government agencies, private sector leaders and nonprofit executives to collectively leverage more than \$50 million in permanent housing and resources to end chronic homelessness in Santa Clara County. An American Leadership Forum senior fellow and an SV@Home board member, Loving also serves on the new California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council, which is working statewide to implement the Housing First strategy.

Appointed to the Board in 2011, O'Neal is an attorney with extensive experience in elder, government and labor law. He serves as a member of the Santa Clara County Personnel Board and as a hearing officer for Santa Clara County's Department of Planning and Development. O'Neal was previously deputy county counsel at the County of Santa Clara, where he worked for more than 20 years.

attending 4-year universities, including University of California; California State University; Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass.; Howard University in Washington, D.C.; and Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Several students are the first in their families to complete high school and pursue higher education, and many are balancing the responsibilities of parenting and maintaining a household with the demands of school.



Anyone who knows three-time Strive recipient Anthony Quijada can see proof of his extraordinary determination to have a positive impact on others while working hard to achieve financial stability and self-reliance. Quijada, 25, will be attending San José State University this fall as a junior transfer student from Gavilan College. Involved in gangs as a youth, Quijada became paralyzed in 2011 after receiving a gunshot wound to his back while shielding a friend who was the target.

“Losing my father that same year was more traumatic than becoming paralyzed,” he said. “But after going through rehab with younger kids also in wheelchairs and the elderly, I became very appreciative of life and eventually shifted my focus from my insecurities to achieving my goals. I refuse to look at my socioeconomic status or disability as an excuse to not one day be successful.”

Quijada said having the Housing Authority community’s continued support helped him gain self-confidence and inspired him to help others. An adult literacy tutor, he plans to attend law school after completing a degree in business administration.

Agency Continues Yearlong 50th Anniversary Celebration

2017 marks our agency’s 50th year of service in our community! Here’s how we’re continuing to celebrate the positive and lasting impact our work has with families throughout Santa Clara County.

- Our new streamlined name – Santa Clara County Housing Authority – is now official! Look for it on our agency correspondence, along with our new logo and tagline: Making Homes, Growing Communities.
- We have a new website domain name: scchousingauthority.org (this is also our new email domain name). Add it to your web browser’s bookmarks!
- We provided the title sponsorship for Santa Clara County’s Affordable Housing Week held in May. This year’s theme – #ItsUpToUs, Silicon Valley – called on all of our county’s workers and residents to act collaboratively to solve the affordable housing crisis. Nearly 1,000 participants attended 24 events over 12 days.
- Affordable Housing Week was the perfect venue to debut our “[Faces of Affordable Housing](#)” video, in which six of our Section 8 residents graciously share their life stories and demonstrate the long-lasting impact housing assistance has for thousands of families.
- San José Mayor Sam Liccardo presented a commendation marking the agency’s 50th anniversary! In his May 9 remarks, Mayor Liccardo noted our partnership to tackle homelessness, continuing efforts to create more affordable housing, and tireless work to stretch limited federal dollars while being a lifeline to many community members through our voucher programs.
- Executive Director Katherine Harasz sums it up in her May 22 [Mercury News op-ed](#): “We’ve spent 50 years making homes and growing communities. We will be here for as long as we’re needed.”

Upcoming 50th celebration activities include community resource fairs, landlord recognition and SCCHA employee-sponsored community service events.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLbwkOWfSG4&feature=youtu.be



The Santa Clara County Housing Authority is the largest provider of affordable housing assistance in the county, helping make rental housing safe and affordable for low-income families through Section 8 voucher programs and below-market rental properties. Designated a Moving to Work agency, it has the capacity to assist nearly 18,000 households.

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