

Santa Clara County Housing Authority Receives 95 New Housing Choice Vouchers As Part Of The American Rescue Plan

SAN JOSE, Calif. – October 05, 2022 – The Santa Clara County Housing Authority (SCCHA) announced that it will receive 95 new Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) as part of a larger award of 19,000 new vouchers being distributed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to almost 2,000 public housing agencies nationwide. In what HUD calls the most expansive allocation of flexible new rental assistance in 20 years, the new housing vouchers will help eligible low-income individuals and families living in Santa Clara County pay their rent amid rising inflation and housing costs.

SCCHA supports and urges Congress to seriously consider President Biden's Fiscal Year 2023 HUD Budget for \$1.6 billion for an additional 200,000 new housing vouchers, or about 10 times the number of new vouchers being awarded nationwide, which will expand access for our county's most marginalized and lowest-income people, including seniors, people with disabilities and families with children. The shortage of affordable homes disproportionately harms Black, Latino and other marginalized people who, because of structural racism in housing and other sectors, are more likely to have extremely low incomes, be severely cost burdened, face eviction and experience homelessness.

"Our ability to meet the housing needs of our county's most vulnerable residents is limited by the funds and vouchers appropriated by Congress," said Preston Prince, Santa Clara County Housing Authority executive director. "Despite our county's overall success in housing more than 20,000 people since 2015, there are 35,000 households on our housing voucher interest lists. While these additional vouchers are helpful, we need more to ensure every eligible household in Santa Clara County has access to a safe and quality home they can afford."

SCCHA's voucher holders still face the challenges of finding housing in Silicon Valley's competitive rental market, where the critical shortage of affordable housing and demand has caused low vacancy rates with rents soaring far beyond what many income levels can afford. More than 85 percent of SCCHA's client households are extremely low-income, earning well below 30 percent of our county's area median income. The success of the HCV program depends on the participation of private property owners. Partnering with SCCHA gives owners the security and convenience of reliable, regular rental payments, even if the tenant loses a job or other income; free advertising for the property; rent increases and landlord incentives. While we collectively continue working to solve our homelessness and housing shortage crises, property owners can be part of the solution now by helping SCCHA provide homes to people with vouchers in hand before those vouchers expire. To partner with SCCHA, visit www.scchousingauthority.org or call SCCHA's owner services at 888-827-7091.

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About SCCHA

The Santa Clara County Housing Authority (SCCHA) is the county's largest provider of affordable housing assistance, helping make rental housing safe and affordable for approximately 20,000 low-income households through the federal Housing Choice Voucher program. SCCHA supports low-income residents through a robust array of programs focused on educational attainment, health and wellness as well as wage progression for families. Designated a Moving to Work agency by Congress, SCCHA also builds safe and healthy communities through land acquisition and new construction, affordable housing preservation, and the expansion of permanent supportive housing. SCCHA owns more than 2,900 units in its housing portfolio and has close to 1,000 units in its development pipeline. As a key partner in the community's effort to end homelessness, SCCHA provides rental assistance for more than 2,700 formerly unhoused individuals and families. For more information, visit www.scchousingauthority.org

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