



SDHC Partnership - City of San Diego Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter Fact Sheet

Introduction

The City of San Diego's (City) Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter will open November 1, 2014, at 16th Street and Newton Avenue. In keeping with its original purpose of offering homeless San Diegans a warm, safe place to sleep during the coldest and rainiest months of the year, the shelter is scheduled to close April 1, 2015.

The shelter is part of the City's Homeless Shelters and Services Programs, administered by the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) since July 1, 2010. It is one of the many ways the City, SDHC and our partners are pursuing the goal of ending homelessness in San Diego.

The shelter can accommodate up to 200 men and women at a time. Day-to-day operations are handled by Alpha Project for the Homeless (Alpha Project), a provider of homeless services in San Diego since 1986, under a contract with SDHC.

The City has implemented an emergency winter shelter program for adults every winter since 1987 to assist homeless individuals. In addition to the Single Adult shelter, a 150-bed Veterans Emergency Winter Shelter for men and women will operate at Veterans Village of San Diego in the Midway District.





New For 2014

New policies and procedures are being implemented this year to improve the service provided to homeless San Diegans at the shelter, reduce their stays and keep the surrounding neighborhood in Barrio Logan clean and safe while the shelter is in operation.

For the first time, referrals from homeless service providers will determine who stays at the shelter instead of the nightly lottery system previously used. This will reduce queuing and loitering in the streets outside the shelter.

The referrals are part of a new Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement system being used by all homeless service providers in Downtown San Diego.

This permanent, year-round program will allow providers to more uniformly screen homeless individuals, track background information, and direct them to the most appropriate housing options. At the Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter, the new intake system will ensure the most vulnerable individuals are served first and will provide resources to help relocate them into permanent housing.

To reinforce the importance of moving out of homelessness and into permanent housing, the shelter also will limit the length of stays to 45 days.

While at the shelter, homeless San Diegans will receive enhanced supportive services. These include case management provided through a contract with Catholic Charities, health and medical services, mental health services, drug and alcohol recovery support, employment and vocational assistance, and life skills training.



What's Next

At the direction of the San Diego City Council on October 7, 2014, the 16th Street and Newton Avenue location will not be considered as a site for the Single Adult Emergency Winter Shelter in 2015-16.

SDHC was directed by the City Council to perform with City staff a study of replacement locations for a permanent indoor homeless shelter.

The City Council also directed SDHC to conduct three community meetings in Barrio Logan to address neighborhood issues concerning the upcoming operation of the shelter at 16th Street and Newton Avenue.

SDHC is working with the San Diego Police Department Homeless Outreach Team and Alpha Project to conduct enhanced patrols in the area surrounding the shelter to deter public camping between the shelter and Chicano Park, including areas around Interstate 5 and its overpass.

