

SDHC Achievement Academy

“We’re About People”



Providing participants a bridge to a better financial future, the Achievement Academy of the San Diego Housing Commission is located at our downtown San Diego headquarters.

- The new 9,600 square foot SDHC Achievement Academy is a state-of-the-art learning and skills center available at no charge to families receiving federal Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) and those living in our public housing properties.
- With its expanded curriculum, the SDHC Achievement Academy builds upon programs the Housing Commission has offered since 1992. The emphasis is on career planning, improving job skills and building savings and assets.
- The SDHC Achievement Academy continues to meet a 1990 U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) mandate that required Housing Authorities to help clients become less reliant on government assistance by achieving economic independence.
- The Rental Assistance Department's Workforce and Economic Development staff serve as program coordinators for the SDHC Achievement Academy. Area colleges and private-sector partners donate funds, services and/or conduct workshops.
- Three programs comprise the SDHC Achievement Academy's core curriculum: Family Self-Sufficiency, Aspire, and The Money Project. Motivated clients have successfully pursued college degrees, started their own businesses, and purchased homes under a special first-time homebuyer program.
- Two SDHC Achievement Academy campuses operate in City Heights and San Ysidro.



Daycare Business Owner

Shavonne enrolled at the SDHC Achievement Academy because she wanted to start and manage her own business. Today, she operates a successful daycare center.

SDHC Achievement Academy Programs

Family Self-Sufficiency

Adult participants commit for up to five-years in this program that includes job training, career planning, and financial literacy education such as budgeting, saving, establishing good credit, and income tax preparation.

- Many participants are eligible for a special savings account in which the Housing Commission deposits a portion of their rent payment into an “escrow account.”
- Participants can use the funds to meet expenses related to achieving career goals.

Aspire

Aspire is a three-year financial asset-building program for adults.

- Participants learn how to budget for expenses while saving money for college tuition, a down payment on a home, or start-up costs for a small business.
- Qualified participants are eligible for a special savings account, matched 3-to-1 by funding from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HSS) and local partners, up to \$4,000.
- Sixteen hours of workshops on financial skills education are required.

The Money Project

The Money Project is a three-year program for family members ages 15 to 24.

- Participants are taught the basics of money management and must perform 20 hours of community service.
- Qualified participants are eligible for a special savings account, matched 3-to-1 by funding from local partners, up to \$3,000.
- College preparation, career planning, and academic tutoring is also offered.



Motivated Mom is Role Model

Kim, a single mother of two, had long dreamed of becoming a certified court reporter.

Through the SDHC Achievement Academy a career plan was developed with a series of goals for Kim to achieve.

Kim enrolled in a court reporting certification training program and was encouraged by her children, who helped her study.

Next, she established a special savings account, in which every \$1 she saved was matched with \$3 from our federal and local partners.

The account was critical during all stages of Kim's career development. It allowed her to pay her tuition to a private college, buy a computer and stenography software costing \$4,000, and paid for her travel expenses to take the State exam in Sacramento.

Kim has now graduated from the SDHC Achievement Academy's Family Self-Sufficiency and Aspire programs.

"Today, I am making a good living and doing what I love," said Kim.

SDHC Achievement Academy Courses & Workshops

The SDHC Achievement Academy is located at the agency's downtown headquarters with two campuses operating in City Heights and San Ysidro. All locations offer classroom-style learning centers and state-of-the-art computer labs. To get started, eligible clients should contact Frances Flores at francesf@sdhc.org or call (619) 578-7451.

SDHC Achievement Academy
Downtown San Diego
 1045 11th Avenue, 1st Floor

Small Business

- Bookkeeping for Small Business
- Marketing for Small Business
- Small Business Start-Up
- Small Business Workshop

Financial Education

- Budgeting
- Checking & Savings
- Credit & Debt
- Taxes & Earned Income Tax Credit

Homeownership

- 1st Time Home Buyer Orientation
- 1st Time Home Buyer Workshop

Workshops

- Computer Literacy
- College Readiness

Our Partnerships

The Achievement Academy of the San Diego Housing Commission is proud to partner with local area colleges and private-sector companies to provide courses and workshops on topics such as personal finance, finding a job, home ownership, small business, and computer literacy. We thank them for their contributions. (Partial list)

- **Acción San Diego**
- **Citibank**
- **Community Housing Works**
- **Housing Opportunities Collaborative**
- **Kelly Services**
- **Manpower**
- **Money Management International**
- **Novadebt**
- **San Diego Workforce Partnership**
- **Southwestern College Small Business Development & International Trade Center**
- **Springboard Consumer Credit Management**
- **U.S. Bank**