

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **San Diego Eviction Prevention Collaborative Launches Housing Help San Diego to Avoid Renter Evictions**

San Diego, California – The San Diego Eviction Prevention Collaborative today announced the launch of the Housing Help San Diego outreach campaign to help San Diegans at risk of eviction. Housing Help San Diego ([HousingHelpSD.com](http://HousingHelpSD.com)) is a one-stop resource supporting San Diegans struggling to pay rent, stay housed, and understand their housing rights during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The pandemic has been merciless for many San Diegans who now face the very real threat of eviction,” said Laura Ann Fernea, Executive Director of the City Heights Community Development Corporation (City Heights CDC), which chairs the Collaborative. “Eviction is costly for both tenants and landlords, but it can be deeply traumatic to families and especially their children,” Fernea added. “Greater awareness of tenants’ rights can help avoid a tidal wave of evictions caused by the pandemic, which would set off increases in homelessness, huge additional human and public costs, and potentially more COVID infections, as evicted persons are forced to move in with unvaccinated friends and relatives across San Diego County.”

The Collaborative points out that evictions are more concentrated among women and communities-of-color. A December 2020 study of millions of eviction court records from 2012 to 2016 in 39 states found that Black renters received a disproportionate share of eviction filings and experienced the highest rates of eviction filing and eviction judgments. Black and Hispanic women faced higher eviction rates than Black and Hispanic men (Hepburn, Peter, et al. “Racial and Gender Disparities among Evicted Americans”, *Sociological Science*, December 16, 2020.)

“As rental assistance becomes available to many in the County, there will be others that do not qualify for assistance or who are unable to access programs due to language, cultural, and income barriers,” said Fernea. “Housing Help San Diego is designed to help avoid evictions for those hardest-to-reach San Diegans.”

Since 2019, the Collaborative has worked to prevent avoidable evictions and homelessness, to safeguard children from eviction’s long-term damages, and, in the last year to protect against the spread of COVID-19. The nonprofit members of the collaborative include City Heights CDC, Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), Disability Rights California, Jewish Family Services, Community Law Project of California Western Law School, San Diego Volunteer Law Program, and the National Conflict Resolution Center. For more information please visit:

[www.housinghelpsd.org](http://www.housinghelpsd.org) or [www.cityheightscdc.org](http://www.cityheightscdc.org).