



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of San Diego Celebrates Annual National Community Development Week

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL IMPACT OF PROJECTS INCLUDING THE ORCHARD AT HILLTOP AND ACCESS YOUTH ACADEMY

SAN DIEGO – This week, April 10-14, is National Community Development Week, a time to celebrate the building of strong and resilient communities across the nation and especially here in San Diego.

During this week, communities nationwide will highlight investments from federal grant programs including [the Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\)](#) and [HOME Investment Partnerships](#), which provide funding to local and state governments to create affordable housing.

The City of San Diego's Economic Development Department (EDD) administers these federal grant programs to fund a variety of housing and community development projects in our local neighborhoods. For fiscal year 2024, the City will administer \$54.9 million in CDBG and HOME funds.

"As we celebrate National Community Development Week, we encourage San Diego residents and nonprofit partners to join us in recognizing the critical role community development programs have in providing an opportunity for all," said Christina Bibler, EDD Director. "Countless individuals from historically under-resourced neighborhoods have benefited from investments like CDBG and HOME funds to catalyze meaningful and generational investment. We look forward to growing our community partnerships, bridging the housing affordability gap, and expanding economic opportunities for San Diegans."

For nearly 50 years, CDBG has been an important resource for communities to devise programs and activities to address infrastructure, affordable housing, and community and economic development needs.

Thanks to CDBG funding provided through the City's Economic Development Department, [the Access Youth Academy](#) project constructed a 22,000-square-foot, two-story Squash & Educational Facility at 704 Euclid Ave., at Euclid Avenue and Guymon Street. This project received \$ 5.5 million.

The building includes eight squash courts, locker rooms, four classrooms, a technology center, study areas, conference and multipurpose rooms, a parent lounge, and administrative offices. The new facility

allowed for the service expansion of Access Youth Academy's core squash-based youth development and support program.

Meanwhile, the HOME program has provided vital funding for more than 30 years to help communities improve access to affordable housing.

The Orchard at Hilltop is a mixed-use, infill development that enriches the Chollas View community with 113 affordable apartment homes, street and pedestrian public improvements, a hospitality venue, and a renewed stormwater channel that creates a natural wildlife habitat. This project received \$4.3 million in HOME funding when it was built mainly in 2022. The grand opening was in February 2023.

For more information about how these programs help San Diegans, and to learn more about EDD, visit sandiego.gov/economic-development.

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