

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New \$200,000 Grant to Fund Shared Housing Initiative in Effort to Provide Additional Permanent Housing Opportunities in San Diego

- **Nonprofits Townspeople and Adjoin to develop system that maximizes access to existing permanent housing communities, with vision to benefit thousands of people experiencing homelessness over time**
- **Grant from Funders Together to End Homelessness San Diego aims to address homelessness in the region**
- **Veterans and individuals with disabilities to be amongst initial populations served under shared housing initiative**

San Diego (Aug. 22, 2022) — A new grant will fund The San Diego Shared Housing Collaborative, a joint initiative by [Townspeople](#) and [Adjoin](#) to move more veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and families in the San Diego region from homelessness into permanent housing. [Funders Together to End Homelessness San Diego](#) created the \$200,000 grant in an effort to address the region's homelessness and housing crises.

"We firmly believe having a place to call home is the foundation for health and wellness," said Townspeople Executive Director Melissa Peterman.

In 2021, Townspeople began exploring how shared housing might serve as a solution to homelessness for clients not already living in the 118 homes it owns and operates. Through that research, Townspeople found that while Adjoin and other providers are successfully implementing a shared housing model in San Diego, the county doesn't have a regional system in place.

Peterman connected with Angie Striepling, Veterans Director of Adjoin, to discuss how their organizations could work together to expand on Adjoin's seamless continuum of service that supports success in shared housing and to build out a system that includes other homeless service providers and sub-populations.

"At Adjoin, for many of the veterans we serve, especially those on fixed income, finding affordable housing in San Diego's tight rental market can be extremely challenging," said Striepling. "We came to use shared housing rather organically as an option for many of our veterans because it was the best option to get them off the streets and into housing that was affordable, by sharing in the cost of the unit."

Referring to Adjoin's current shared housing model and drawing on learnings from a 2021 multi-month shared housing training by the [Regional Task Force on Homelessness](#) and [The Shared Housing Institute](#), Townspeople and Adjoin will design and implement a small-scale system of shared housing with an eye for regional growth. It will use strategies such as housemate matching, landlord incentives, support services, communications, and conflict management to get more people who are homeless into stable, permanent housing.

"We really need to normalize and encourage shared housing as an option as we work to end homelessness," Striepling added. "We have seen it work and work well, taking strangers who agreed to shared housing to best friends looking out for each other."

The goal of The San Diego Shared Housing Collaborative is to position San Diego, a region without enough studios and one-bedrooms to rent, to reach a wider base of individuals and allow for more potential housemate pairings across the county. The initiative aims to expand the opportunity to thousands to live in existing high-quality, permanent housing units regardless of their circumstances while state and local officials consider strategies for developing new affordable housing communities.

"The San Diego Shared Housing Collaborative will expand high-quality housing opportunities in our region and will bring us one step closer to ending homelessness," said Amy Denhart, director of Funders Together to End Homelessness San Diego. "As a community, we must continue to invite and welcome new programs, resources, and services to our approach on homelessness in order to create long-lasting solutions that are accessible to everyone."

According to the [2019 Annual Homeless Assessment Report](#), San Diego has the fourth largest homeless population in the country. At least 8,102 people experience homelessness in San Diego County on any given night, with 10% of this population made up of veterans and 36% of this population made up of individuals with a physical disability.

Considering that San Diego has also become the fifth most expensive rental city in the nation according to the [2022 Zumper National Rent Report](#), it is clear to Townspeople, Adjoin, and Funders Together to End Homelessness San Diego that the time to explore and deploy every possible strategy to increase housing affordability and long-term stability is now.

"Ending homelessness requires intensifying and maximizing all housing opportunities as well as finding new ways to engage the private rental market in order to effectively increase options that lead to permanent housing," said Peterman. "The expansion of shared housing is a critical pathway to finding a home for the thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness in San Diego."

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ABOUT TOWNSPEOPLE

Founded in 1984 by friends and concerned San Diego citizens to help the growing number of people succumbing to the disease to be called AIDS, the group called themselves "The Townspeople" and raised funds for needed programs and services throughout San Diego County. Over the years, Townspeople expanded its reach to help more people experiencing homelessness, including veterans. Today, the organization owns and operates four affordable apartment complexes totalling 118 units, oversees an additional 13 units of supportive housing, provides eligible residents with short-term rental assistance, and provides information and referrals for issues related to housing, food, case management, government benefits, and social supports.

The apartment complexes owned and operated by Townspeople are located in San Diego neighborhoods Colina Del Sol, City Heights, Normal Heights, and Southcrest.

ABOUT ADJOIN

For almost 40 years, Adjoin has primarily helped veterans and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities find communities where they feel safe and respected, and can be themselves in every aspect of their lives. Adjoin has created over 30,000 positive impacts on peoples lives through its mission to create limitless pathways for people to belong and, in 2020, Adjoin's veteran services positively impacted 638 individual veteran households. Adjoin's vision is to be the most resourceful and impactful social service organization in building a world of inclusion.

ABOUT FUNDERS TOGETHER TO END HOMELESSNESS

Funders Together to End Homelessness San Diego (FTEHSD) is an alliance of philanthropists and public and private grantmakers that invest in effective systems change with the goal of ending homelessness throughout San Diego County.

FTEHSD's goal is to build a San Diego County collaborative of funders who are committed to solving homelessness through leadership, education, and advocacy; strategic collaboration, alignment and focus of resources; and effective promotion and replication of evidence-based practices in our community. To-date, FTEHSD has granted more than \$2.5 million in funds to address homelessness in the San Diego region.

FTEHSD is part of the national Funders Together to End Homelessness network.

MAIN OFFICE INFORMATION

Townspeople is headquartered at 2047 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92104.

Website | www.townspeople.org

Donation page | www.townspeople.org/donate/

Instagram and Twitter | @townspeople_sd

Adjoin is headquartered at 9444 Farnham Street, Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92123.

Website | adjoin.org/

Donation page | donate.adjoin.org/give

Instagram and Twitter | @adjoinorg

Funders Together to End Homelessness San Diego is headquartered in 5060 Shoreham Place, Suite 350, San Diego CA 92122.

Website | www.funderstogethersd.org

Facebook and Twitter | @FTEHSD

PHOTO ([available to download from this Google Drive folder](#))

Credit. Photo by Laura Torzsa. Courtesy of Townspeople.

Description. Vista Del Puente is one of four affordable housing properties owned and managed by Townspeople.

