



STEPHEN RUSSELL  
SDHF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### *Dear Members,*

Thank you to our members, partners, and sponsors for rapidly adjusting to the changing circumstances that have engulfed us all. The Federation – like many of our members – has always prided itself on being small but mighty, and part of that formula is to be nimble. This mighty nimbleness is certainly on display by the Federation membership right now. Thank you for the work you continue to do through these critical times to ensure that safe and secure affordable housing is available to San Diegans.

Much has changed in the last few weeks as our team continues to work from our homes. Our [programs](#) have moved to [webinars](#) focusing on the affordable housing sector's COVID-19 needs, resources, and information. Our advocacy and policy efforts continue to help create legislative change, including affordable housing funds in the [CARES Act](#). We continue to work with our event partners to reschedule events such as the [SDRAFFH Fair Housing Conference](#) to webinar formats. We continue to update our list of resources for our sector such as [food distributions](#) and affordable housing related [webinars](#).

We've also begun hosting weekly virtual forums with funders, financiers, owners, operators, and developers in our sector to guide our work during this extraordinary time. One forum is focused on

the experiences of owners and operators; the other is focused on finance and development. It's our goal to remain in contact with the realities that our members are facing, to share best practices, and to sharpen the Federation's advocacy. If you're interested in participating in either of these forums, please [contact me](#).

Lastly, if you are able to give consider donating to an organization at the bottom of our [resources page](#). We hear from all of our members that one of the most critical needs right now amongst our residents is a reliable food supply. We'll be doing a social media campaign to encourage donations to the many hard-working and under resourced organizations that provide food support – please support this effort any way you can.

We are stronger together, and together we will emerge from the virus' shadow and continue to fulfill our core mission of providing housing for those among us who have the greatest need.

Be well, and be strong!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve".

Steve Russell, Executive Director  
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