



# **Philanthropic Opportunities in Housing Affordability for Santa Barbara County**

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **1. WHY IS HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IMPORTANT?**

Stable and affordable housing is essential to Santa Barbara County's collective health, wellbeing, and economic prosperity. Yet, for too many, housing is unaffordable or even unattainable. Efforts to protect, preserve and produce housing supply are essential to address what has become a countywide crisis.

### **2. WHO NEEDS AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS?**

More affordable housing options are needed for everyone in our community: families with small children; graduates of local educational institutions who want to continue to call Santa Barbara County home; those who work in the service industry, grow our food, teach our children and care for our older adults; people who grew up here and want to establish a home near parents and other family members; talent working in one of our county's many nonprofit, government, university, or business sector jobs; and our neighbors who want to age gracefully in their community.

### **3. WHY DID SBF COMMISSION THIS REPORT?**

The Santa Barbara Foundation is committed to fostering an environment where everyone can thrive, and stable, affordable housing is fundamental to this vision. Housing affordability remains a priority for the Foundation and with this report, we deepen our commitment to the issue.

### **4. WHAT IS SBF'S HISTORY IN HOUSING AFFORDABILITY?**

As early as 1948, the Foundation's Board of Trustees supported a housing study which examined substandard housing conditions as well as options for emergency and long-term, low-cost housing. In recent years, our efforts have been focused on shelter for our most vulnerable through our Shelter & Safety grantmaking program through which SBF has contributed over \$1.3million from 2019 to 2023.

## 5. WHAT IS SBF'S ROLE IN HOUSING AFFORDABILITY IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY?

Santa Barbara County's housing crisis calls for public, private, and philanthropic partners to come together to develop and implement philanthropic solutions to address housing affordability. The Santa Barbara Foundation plans to expand our commitment to support advocacy efforts, collect and share research and best practices, and facilitate philanthropic investment in housing solutions. We will be organizing a funders collaborative, sharing research and best practices, and aiming to reach an aspirational level of \$10 million in 5 years in pledges, grants, and investments for Santa Barbara County.

## 6. WHAT ARE THE DESIRED OUTCOMES FROM THIS REPORT?

With this report, the Santa Barbara Foundation strives to:

- Stimulate creative ideas, cultivate learning and collaboration, and mobilize our community's collective wisdom;
- Provide a vision for how philanthropy can work together with government, business, and nonprofit sectors to increase housing affordability;
- Demonstrate new and innovative ways that financial resources can be assembled to protect, preserve, and produce affordable housing.

## 7. WHAT IS THE SANTA BARBARA FOUNDATION?

The mission of the Santa Barbara Foundation is to mobilize collective wisdom and philanthropic capital to build empathetic, inclusive, and resilient communities. Serving as a community foundation for Santa Barbara County since 1928, the Foundation serves as a hub for donors and funders to learn more about the issues that matter the most to our County, and to identify ways to help. This collaborative model has sparked innovation and motivated philanthropic investment for 95 years.



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