



# HOUSING

AUTHORITY OF THE  
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

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May 4, 2012

**HAND DELIVERED**

Mr. Simon Kiefer, Project Planner  
Community Development Department  
City of Santa Barbara  
630 Garden St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: REQUEST FOR RENEWAL FUNDING OF CITY HOME GRANT FOR THE  
OPERATION OF A TENANT BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN  
THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000 FOR A TWO YEAR PERIOD.

Dear Simon:

As you know, the Housing Authority, in partnership with the City of Santa Barbara, established a Tenant Based Rent Assistance (TBRA) program in October, 2010 with \$100,000 per year of funding for a two year period. The objective of this HOME funded program was to provide rental subsidy to very low income homeless individuals, who maintain an active Section 8 application, to secure decent, safe, sanitary housing within the City of Santa Barbara boundaries. This program continues to be a key tool in community's efforts to end chronic homelessness. This is not an easy effort given the high number of homeless individuals encountered through the Point-in-Time Count/Vulnerability Index Survey administered in the last week of February 2011. Through this survey, 1,536 people were encountered countywide, with 1,040 (67.71%) in the City of Santa Barbara.

The Housing Authority continues to experience an extremely high demand for its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program from low income renters in Santa Barbara (our wait list is in excess of 3,000 applicants), yet the ability to provide Section 8 vouchers to help all those in need and eligible, including homeless individuals, is limited. Thus, the HOME TBRA program has been a source of additional housing assistance to those homeless individuals that would otherwise not be provided. Once housed under the HOME TBRA program, the participants are qualified to receive a maximum of two years of rental subsidy by which time it is anticipated that other sources of rental assistance would be available or there ceases to be a need for subsidy (i.e. we hope some will be off of housing assistance all together should circumstances like employment and increased income as a result through self-sufficiency efforts.)

Since our initial lease-up under the HOME TBRA program in March of 2011, the Housing Authority has housed 12 homeless individuals through the program on the Vulnerability Index list, with an additional three homeless individuals actively seeking housing having recently been issued a voucher. This is a very effective model program for housing the homeless. To this end, we are requesting a renewal of the City grant of federal HOME dollars in the amount of \$300,000 for another two year period to continue

Mr. Simon Kiefer  
May 4, 2012  
Page 2

to run the TBRA program. One hundred percent of this funding is will be used for housing assistance payments as the Housing Authority is providing for the cost of administering the program. The renewal of funds would provide housing assistance for approximately 20 of our most chronically homeless individuals.

We hope that City staff and the Council agree that this program is worthy of continued use of HOME dollars, as it effectively is addressing what is perhaps the community's most perplexing and difficult social issue—homelessness. We look forward to your support of this request as well as the City Council's favorable consideration. Please let me know if you require any additional information to move this funding request forward.

Sincerely,

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE  
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA



ROB FREDERICKS  
Deputy Executive Director/CAO

cc: R. Pearson, Executive Director/CEO  
S. Szymanski, Deputy Executive Director/COO  
B. Peirson, Finance Director  
V. Loza, Housing Management Director