



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** March 15, 2017

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Administration, Housing and Human Services Division,  
Community Development Department

**SUBJECT:** Work Session On Homelessness And Housing

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council hold a special work session on efforts to reduce homelessness, including affordable housing, and receive a report from the Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness (C3H).

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

At the December 14, 2016 Fiscal Year 2018 budget Council work session, staff was asked to schedule a special Council meeting on efforts to reduce homelessness. This work session will provide an opportunity to discuss the following City measures to reduce homelessness and its impacts in the City of Santa Barbara:

- Efforts to Lessen Homelessness and Its Impacts
- City-Supported Affordable Housing for Formerly Homeless
- City Financial Support for Homeless Shelters and Services
- Costs to Respond to Homelessness in the City

### **DISCUSSION:**

On a single night in January 2017, 790 people in the City of Santa Barbara were experiencing homelessness, meaning they were sleeping outside, in their vehicles, in emergency shelters, or in transitional housing programs. This is a reduction of 11.5% from January 2015's count of 893. The 2017 count indicated that 72% were men and 28% were women; 56% were residing in shelters or transitional housing programs, while 44% were without shelter or living in their vehicles.

Homelessness is a complex social crisis in America, and the National Coalition for the Homeless attributes this to a lack of affordable housing, poverty, lack of affordable health care, domestic violence, mental illness, and/or addiction. Homelessness emerged as a national issue in the 1870s, mainly in big cities. The de-institutionalization of patients from state psychiatric hospitals in the 1970s precipitated an increase in homelessness in the 1980s, and the Great Recession in 2008 resulted in massive foreclosures and another rise in people experiencing homelessness. Homelessness in

the City of Santa Barbara has followed this nationwide trend. As a result, the City has supported and/or participated in numerous strategies to lessen homelessness and its impacts, as described below.

### **Efforts to Lessen Homelessness and Its Impacts**

A City/County Homeless Advisory Committee was formed in the late 1980s which included elected representatives from the County and the City of Santa Barbara. This group provided a forum for interested parties to voice concerns and offer solutions. In 2006, the group changed its name to South Coast Homeless Advisory Committee and was restructured to include elected representatives from the County, the City of Goleta, City of Carpinteria, and City of Santa Barbara, as well as representatives of shelter providers, housing providers, social service providers, advocacy groups, and homeless persons.

The City also participated in the countywide Bringing Our Community Home: 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, which began in 2005 as part of a national initiative led by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. The goal of the 10-Year Plan was to end chronic homelessness, the 10-15% of the homeless population that does not respond to the traditional system of care yet consumes over 50% of local resources spent on homeless services. Elected representatives from the county and five cities served on the Leadership Council. The 10-Year Plan was the first countywide effort on homelessness, and it identified several strategies to house the chronic homeless and established a staffing structure. Unfortunately, funding to implement the strategies never materialized.

On June 17, 2008, City Council established a Subcommittee on Homelessness and Community Relations (Subcommittee) to study a range of issues related to homeless services and neighborhood impacts. This committee developed 12 *Strategies to Address Community Issues Related to Homelessness*. On November 9, 2010, Council authorized the Subcommittee to reconvene for the purpose of reviewing progress on the implementation of the twelve recommended strategies and to address the issue of meal provisions citywide. Several positive changes resulted from the strategies, including:

- Panhandling education and alternate giving campaign
- City financial support for affordable housing projects for homeless individuals
- Coordination of 100 most vulnerable (now the vulnerability list and the bi-weekly housing placement call)
- Coordination with the Neighborhood Advisory Council to recommend capital improvements to mitigate the impact of homelessness
- Funding to support the purchase of Project Recovery's detox center
- Restorative Policing program expansion to 2 officers, 3 part-time outreach workers, and 6 part-time community service liaisons
- More restrictive panhandling ordinance
- Development of Restorative Court program

On September 13, 2011, Council received a report from the Subcommittee and approved, in concept, the consolidation of Bringing Our Community Home, Common Ground Santa Barbara, and the Regional Homeless Advisory Committees into what has become the Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness (C3H).

C3H was formed in October 2012 and works in partnership with a broad group of service providers and stakeholders, including government agencies, non-profit organizations, business leaders, foundations, faith communities, and volunteers to harness all resources available to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness and minimize the impacts of homelessness in Santa Barbara County. C3H is governed by a Policy Council of elected officials from the County of Santa Barbara and the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Goleta, Carpinteria, Lompoc, and Buellton. An Executive Oversight Committee, appointed by the Policy Council, assists staff with the day-to-day operations of C3H. The work of C3H includes the following:

- Regional Coordination
- Coordinated Outreach Teams
- Housing Placement Interagency Coordination and Tracking
- Data Sharing and Reporting
- Coordination of Point In Time Count

The City provides \$91,232 per year to support the efforts of C3H. Currently, Mayor Schneider and Council Member Murillo serve on the C3H Policy Council. Mayor Schneider just completed two years as Chair, and Council Member Murillo is currently serving as Vice Chair. City staff is actively involved and serves on the Executive Oversight Committee.

### **Affordable Housing**

The City of Santa Barbara's Affordable Housing Program provides assistance for the development and preservation of housing, affordable to households earning up to 80% of median income, through the provision of loans and grants to developers of affordable housing and through the City's development incentives. Approximately 8.3% (3,193) of the 38,246 dwelling units in the City are affordable for the long-term (subject to recorded long-term affordability controls and/or owned and operated by a non-profit housing sponsor). Another 4.7% (1,803) of the units are affordable under the Shelter Plus Care/Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program operated by the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara. The total number of affordable and/or assisted housing units (4,996) is equal to 13% of the City's housing.

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Rental - senior   | 1,255       |
| Rental – non-senior only (includes 618 'Project-based' Section 8) | 1,389       |
| Ownership   | 465         |
| Resident-owned Mobile-home Park Spaces                            | 71          |
| <u>Secondary Dwelling Units</u>                                   | <u>13</u>   |
| Subtotal of Affordable Units:                                     | 3,193(8.3%) |

|                                    |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Shelter Plus Care/Section 8 Rental | 1,803(4.7%)        |
| <u>Total Affordable Units:</u>     | <u>4,996 (13%)</u> |

There are an additional 202 affordable units in the pipeline, including Gardens on HOPE (89 senior), Grace Village (57 senior), Johnson Court (17 homeless veterans), and Jardin de las Rosas (39).

Direct City funding, namely former Redevelopment Agency housing set-aside funds, totaling \$34.8 million have been utilized for the development (168 units) and preservation (179) of permanent housing for formerly homeless persons (see Attachment).

### **City Financial Support**

The City of Santa Barbara has a long history of providing grants to non-profit social service agencies serving children, youth, seniors, and homeless residents. In Fiscal Year 2017, approximately \$1.2 million was granted to non-profit homeless service providers for prevention, coordination, shelter, supportive services, and rental subsidies. Fifty-four percent (\$655,000) came directly from the General Fund, and the remaining 46% percent (\$554,000) came from federal HOME and Community Development Block Grant funding (see Attachment).

### **Costs to Respond to Homelessness in the City**

In addition to supporting housing and services for people experiencing homelessness, the City expends approximately \$1.8 million per year mitigating the effects on homelessness (see Attachment), including:

- \$1,208,859 for enforcement
- \$143,475 for encampment clean-up
- \$195,163 for park clean-up and repairs
- \$63,039 for staff support
- \$222,006 for Restorative Policing

In conclusion, homelessness is a pervasive societal issue that cannot be solved solely by the City of Santa Barbara. Nevertheless, it appears that City-supported efforts have had an impact on the number of people experiencing homelessness in the City, as evidenced by a 24% decrease in the number of people counted in the last four Point In Time counts (2011 = 1,040; 2013 = 946; 2015 = 893; and 2017 = 790).

**ATTACHMENT:** Homeless Services and Impacts in the City of Santa Barbara

**PREPARED BY:** Sue Gray, Community Development Business Manager

**SUBMITTED BY:** George Buell, Community Development Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office

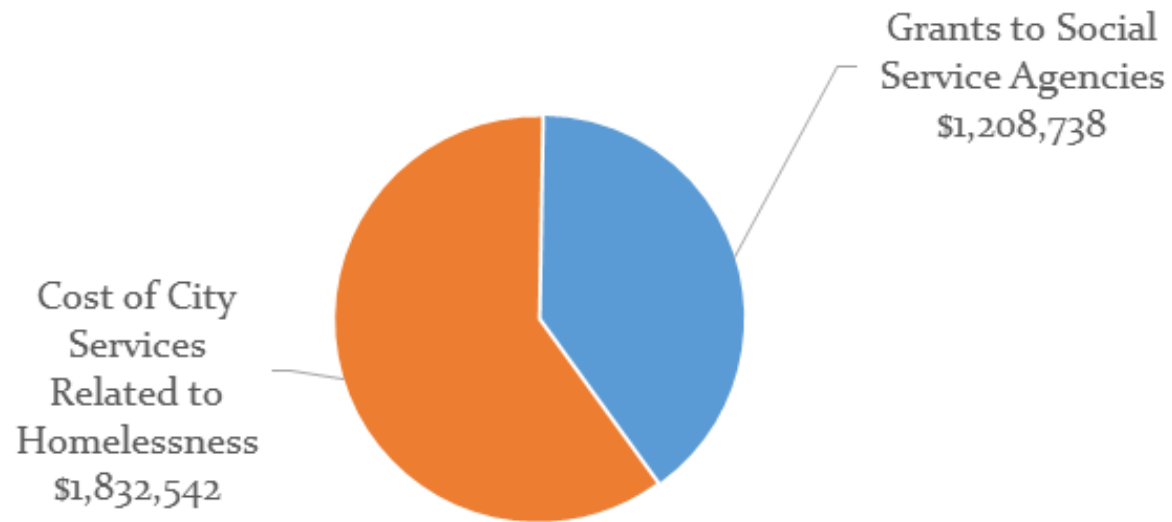
# Homeless Services and Impacts in the City of Santa Barbara

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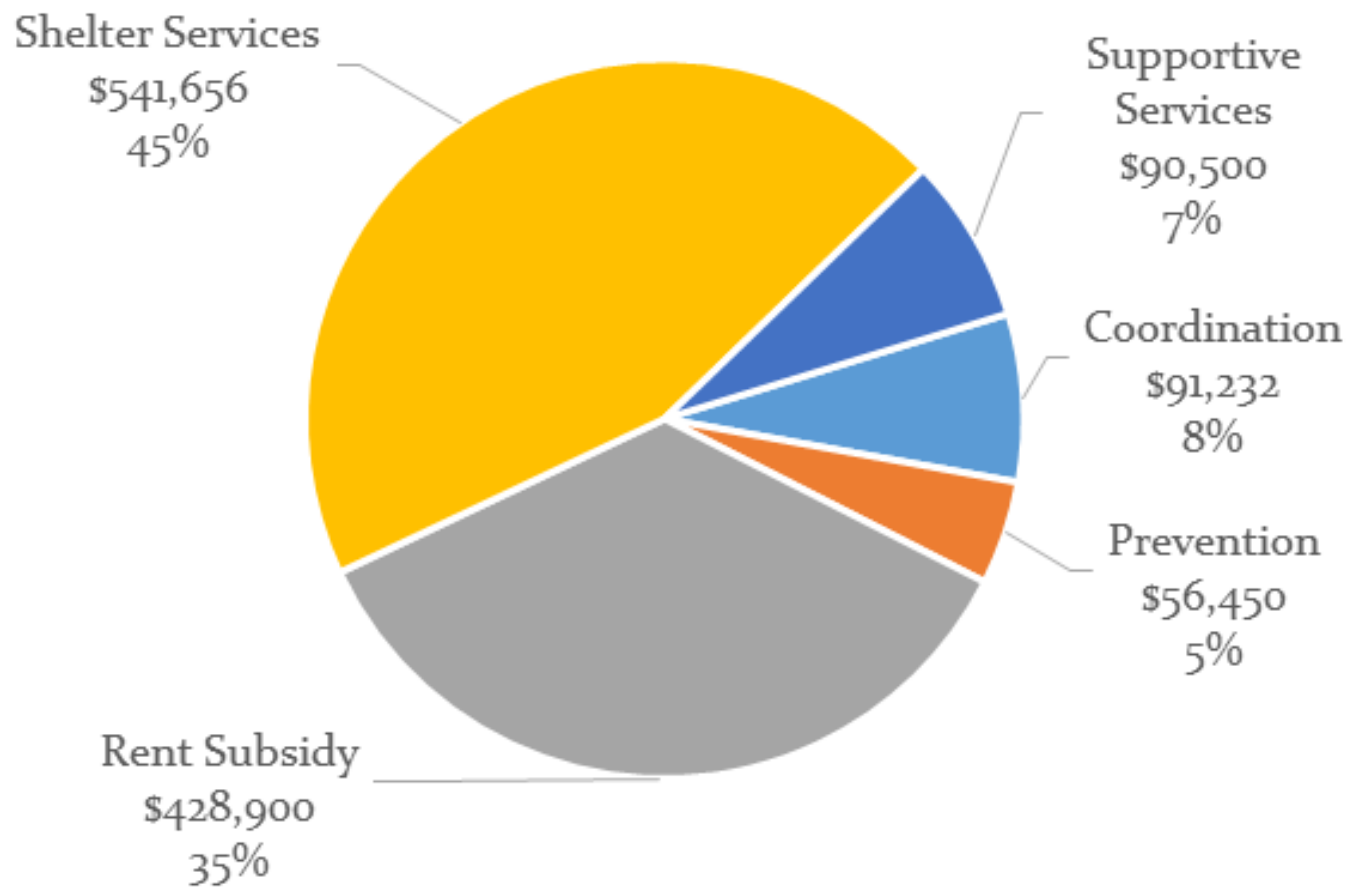
Homeless Services and Impacts in the City of Santa Barbara

Grants to Social Service Agencies/  
Cost of City Services Related to  
Homelessness  
\$3,041,280 Total



# Homeless Services and Impacts in the City of Santa Barbara

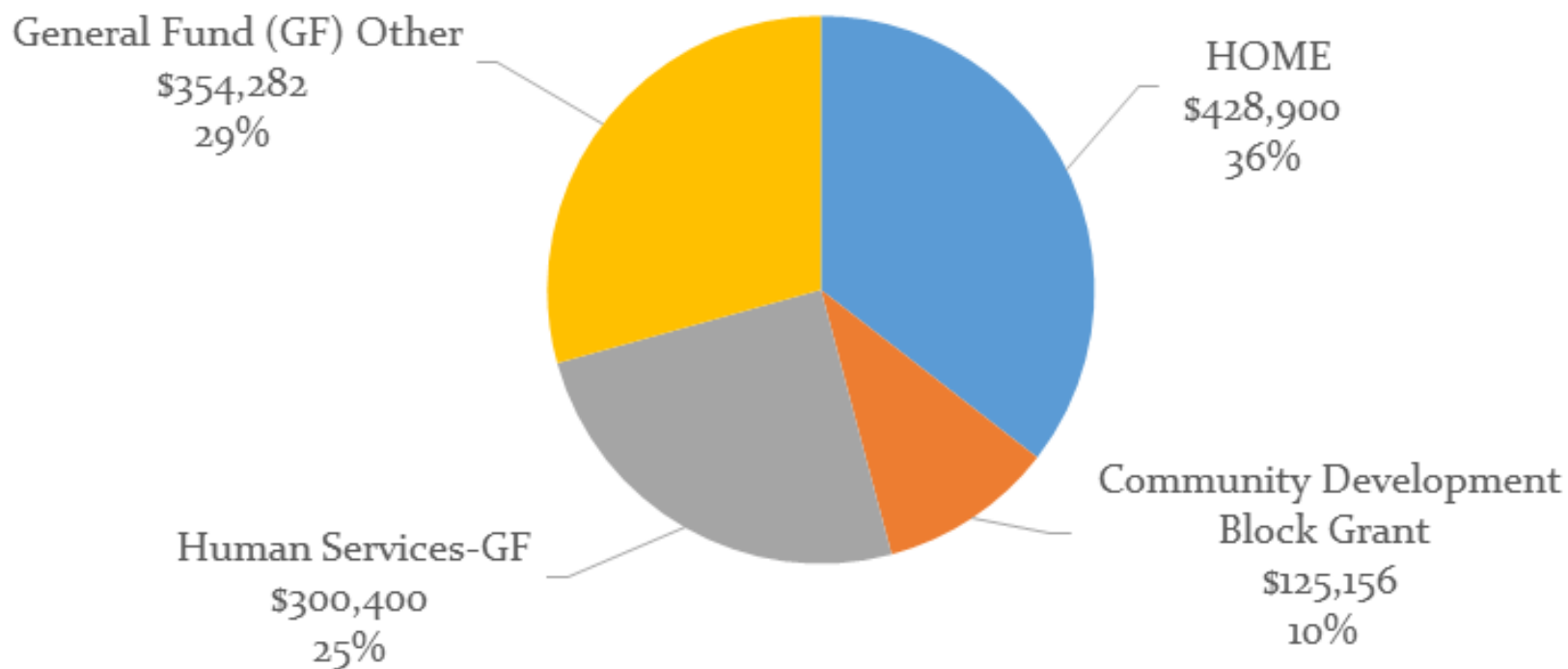
## Grants to Social Services Agencies by Type \$1,208,738



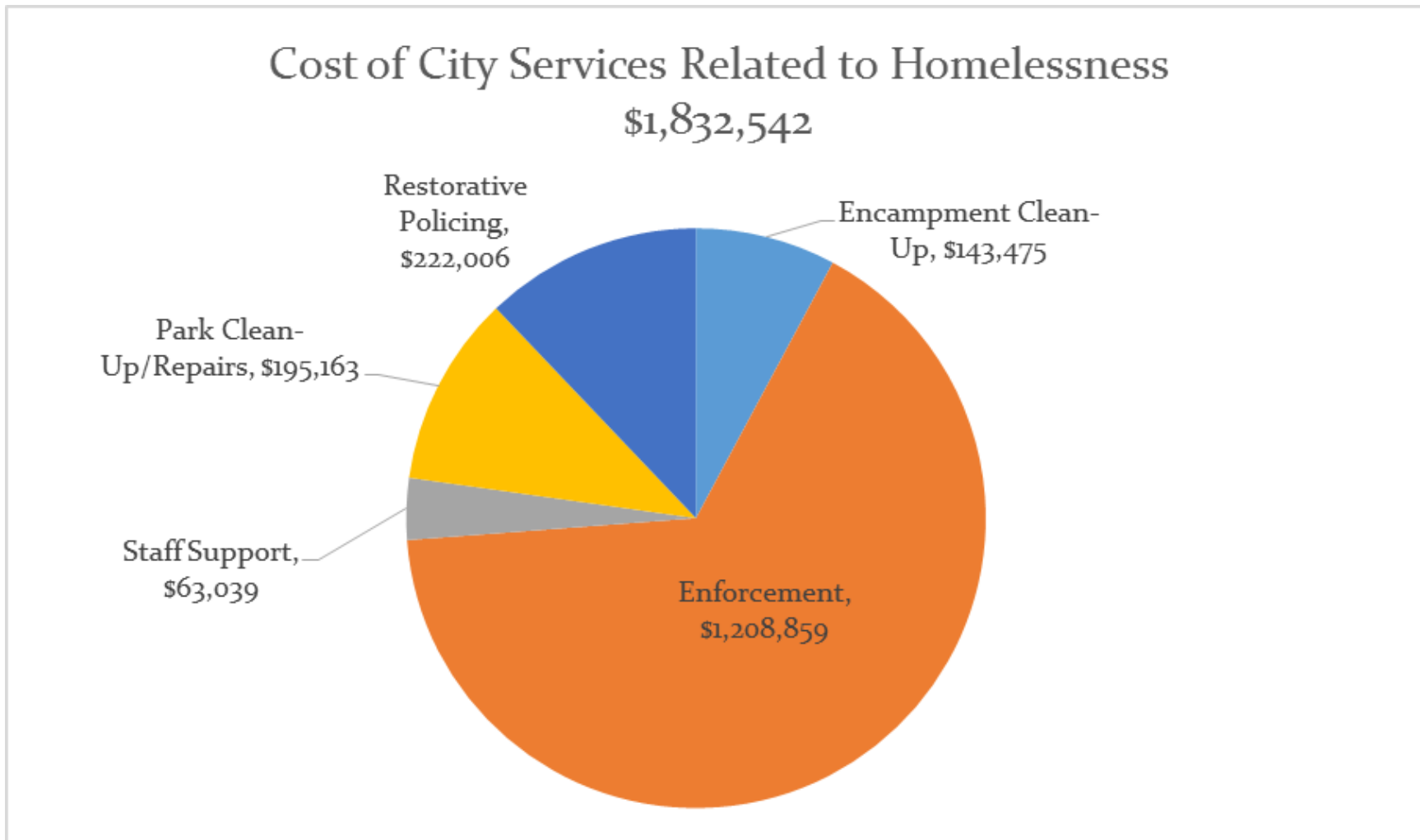


# Homeless Services and Impacts in the City of Santa Barbara

## Grants to Social Services Agencies by Source \$1,208,738

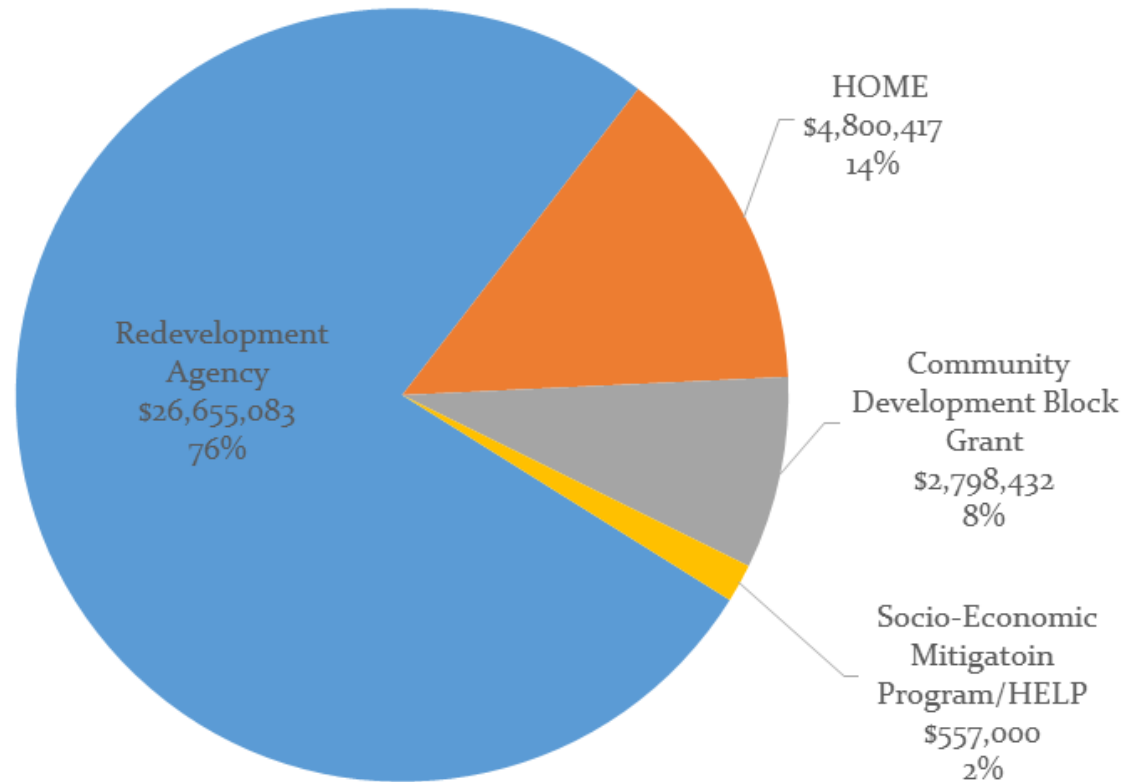


# Homeless Services and Impacts in the City of Santa Barbara



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## City Capital Support for Permanent Housing by Funding Source \$34,810,932



Note: The City's Redevelopment Agency was dissolved in 2012.

# Homeless Services and Impacts in the City of Santa Barbara

