



Creating & Preserving Affordable Housing

June 2, 2026

Berkeley City Council  
2180 Milvia St  
Berkeley, CA 94704

**Re: Support for Small Sites Program Funding in FY 27**

Dear Mayor Ishii and City Council Members,

We are writing to express our support for Berkeley's Small Sites Program and to respectfully ask you to maintain adequate funding for this program in the FY27 budget.

Berkeley is rapidly losing its unsubsidized affordable housing stock. Since 2020, the city has lost about 1,000 unsubsidized affordable homes due to increasing rents that make them unaffordable to low-income residents. Of the estimated 7,600 unsubsidized affordable rental homes that remain, nearly 16% are at Very High Risk or High Risk of being lost due to increasing rents in the next five years.<sup>1</sup>

Preserving unsubsidized affordable housing is a necessary complement to building more deed-restricted affordable housing like the kind that RCD develops. By enabling the acquisition and rehabilitation of smaller, often at-risk properties, the Small Sites Program prevents displacement and preserves affordability in place.

The Small Sites Program has already converted more than 33 homes to permanent affordability, serving over 50 lower-income Berkeley residents. Demand remains high, with local community land trusts identifying a need for \$5 million in funding—requiring a \$2.5 million allocation in FY27. Redirecting Measure U1 or Housing Trust Fund dollars away from this program would significantly limit the City's ability to respond to urgent preservation opportunities and meet its housing goals.

We respectfully urge you to prioritize funding for the Small Sites Program in the FY27 budget to prevent displacement, stabilize communities, and ensure Berkeley maintains a diverse and inclusive housing stock.

Sincerely,

Dan Sawislak  
Executive Director  
Resources for Community Development

<sup>1</sup> Source: California Housing Partnership, Unsubsidized Affordable Housing Database, 2025