

# Housing Justice in Silicon Valley: An Action Plan for Donors

## Executive Summary

The intertwined challenges of homelessness and lack of affordable housing are complex, but not insurmountable. They have been driven and exacerbated by inequality, racism, and an extreme mismatch between housing supply and demand. It is up to us – **all of us** – to rewrite the future of Silicon Valley by fixing broken systems and investing in community well-being.

If we fail to step up on this issue, everything we love about Silicon Valley – our diversity and our dynamism – is in jeopardy. We owe it to our children and the next generation to produce, preserve, and protect housing at all levels, especially for extremely low-income households and communities of color.

Progress is absolutely possible, but **we need local philanthropy leaning forward to invest in our shared future.** Donors at all levels have a critical role to play in helping redesign our housing system to ensure stability and equity for everyone. Individual giving is especially powerful because it provides the flexibility that leading on-the-ground nonprofits need to operate nimbly and effectively in the face of extreme and compounding challenges. These organizations work tirelessly and effectively to stave off eviction and keep people housed, foster economic security to prevent people from falling into homelessness, champion and build more housing, and more.

This Issue Brief is offered as a resource for Silicon Valley donors to:

- provide a brief summary of the problem
- identify effective levers for change
- recommend best-in-class organizations in our backyard working on those levers

Whether you are interested in addressing root causes through policy advocacy and structural reform, or ameliorating immediate needs through direct services, or both, **our community needs you.**

**Join us in working together to resource, support, and reimagine a Silicon Valley we can all be proud of, now and into the future.**

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Photo by Kyle Martin, San Jose Spotlight



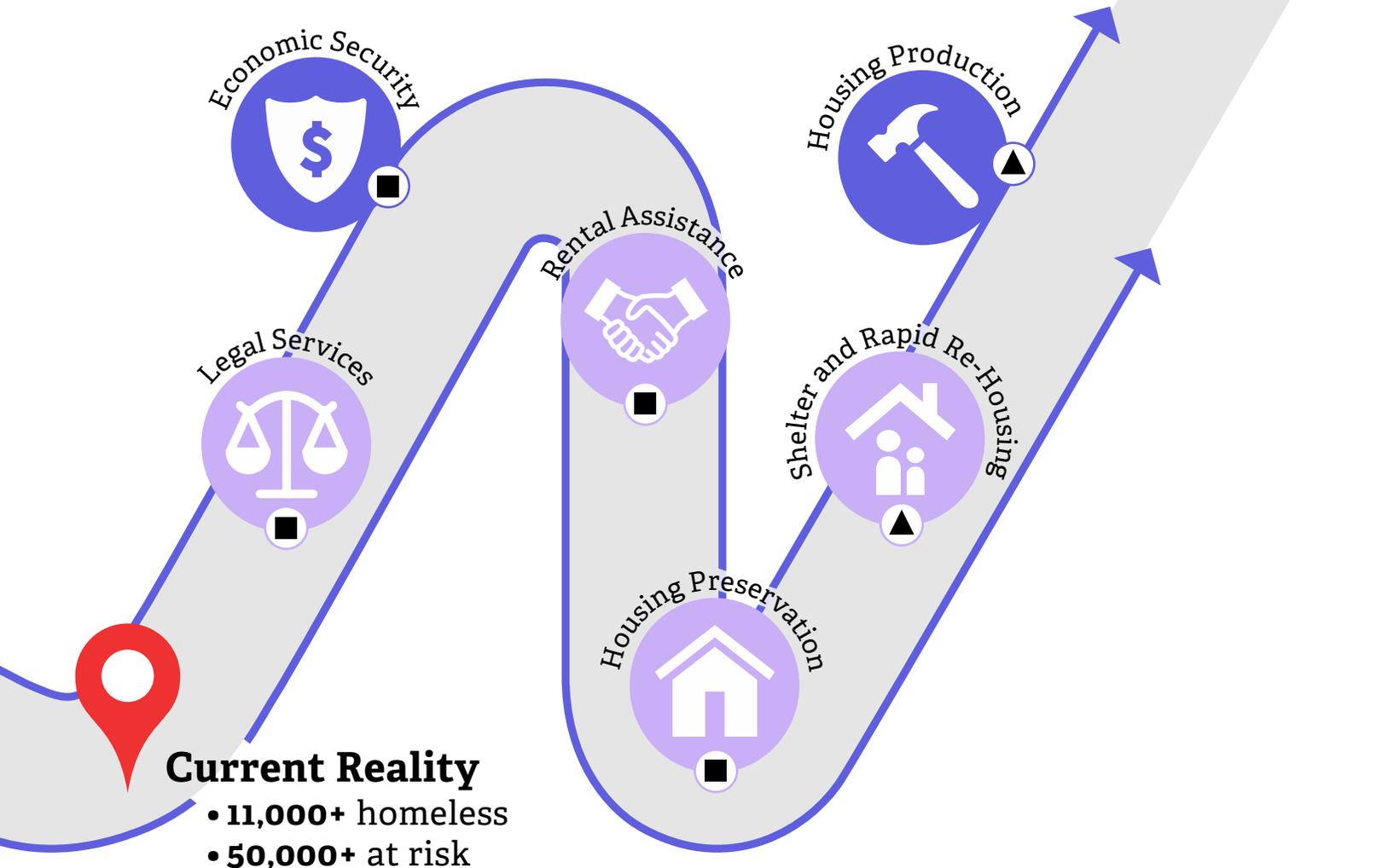
# An Action Plan for Mutually-Reinforcing Investment Strategies

Near-Term: Meeting Urgent Needs

Long-Term: Driving Systems Change

■ Keeping People Housed    ▲ Getting People Sheltered

**A Thriving Community**



ADVOCACY

ORGANIZING

POLICY REFORM

All three are essential to influence both near-term and long-term solutions.



# Mutually-Reinforcing Investment Opportunities by Strategy

## Near-Term



### Rental Assistance

- 7 Core Agencies in San Mateo County (SMC)
- 15 Homelessness Prevention System Agencies in Santa Clara County (SCC)
- Destination: Home (SCC)
- Samaritan House (SMC)



### Legal Services

- Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (SMC)
- Law Foundation of Silicon Valley (SCC)
- Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (SMC)



### Shelter and Rapid Re-Housing

- Abode Services (SCC/SMC)
- Family Supportive Housing (SCC)
- HomeFirst Services (SCC/SMC)
- LifeMoves (SCC/SMC)



### Housing Preservation

- South Bay Community Land Trust
- St. Francis Center
- *Most Re-Housing and Production organizations also engage in Preservation*

## Long-Term



### Economic Security

- Destination: Work project of Destination: Home (SCC)
- Downtown Streets Team (SCC)
- JobTrain (SCC/SMC)
- WeHope (SMC)
- Working Partnerships USA (SCC)



### Housing Production

- HIP Housing (SMC)
- MidPen Housing (SCC/SMC)
- Abode Services partnership with Allied Housing (SCC/SMC)
- Charities Housing (SCC)
- First Community Housing (SCC/SMC)
- PATH Ventures (SCC)
- Housing Trust (SCC/SMC)
- Hello Housing (SCC/SMC)



## Advocacy, Organizing, and Policy Reform

- Faith in Action Bay Area (SMC)
- Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County (SMC)
- People Acting in Community Together (PACT) (SCC)
- SOMOS Mayfair (SCC)
- SV@Home (SCC)
- Working Partnerships USA (SCC)
- Youth United for Community Action (YUCA) (SMC)
- Destination: Home (SCC)
- Partnership for the Bay's Future (SCC/SMC)

# Giving Portfolio Examples

## Housing and Homelessness in Silicon Valley

### STRATEGIES

#### Preventing homelessness

Impact: near-term



##### Rental Assistance

Providing emergency financial assistance to help people pay rent (\$4,000 per household can keep a family housed)



##### Legal Services

Preventing displacement and eviction through legal representation (43,000 renters are at risk of being evicted in Santa Clara County alone)

#### Supporting people out of homelessness

Impact: near- to mid-term



##### Shelter and Rapid Re-Housing

Providing temporary rental subsidies while tenants work on increasing their income and maintaining stability



##### Economic Security

Supporting specialized employment programs creating on-ramps to long-term employment

#### Tackling the root causes of the housing crisis

Impact: mid- to long-term



##### Advocacy, Organizing, and Policy Reform

Funding nonprofit staff dedicated to promoting pro-housing policies and amplifying community voices



##### Economic Security

Supporting efforts to organize and build worker power to improve people's resiliency, and long-term economic security

#### Building additional housing capacity

Impact: mid- to long-term



##### Housing Production

Providing seed capital to kickstart construction of affordable housing (average cost per unit: >\$600,000)



##### Housing Preservation

Supporting nonprofits to acquire and rehabilitate existing properties to create additional capacity