



**HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**

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June 22, 2026

***** FOLLOW UP COMMUNICATION REGARDING EHV PROGRAM FUNDING *****

Dear Emergency Housing Voucher Participant,

I am writing to follow up on the letter the Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara (HACSB) sent to you earlier this month regarding the anticipated end of federal funding for the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program.

First and most importantly, I want you to know that we understand how deeply unsettling this situation is. Housing is not simply a program or a monthly payment. We recognize it is your home, your stability, your safety, and your foundation. I believe strongly that housing is a basic human right, and I also want to be honest with you that the Housing Authority is constrained by the funding made available to us by Congress and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

At this time, HACSB continues to estimate that federal EHV funding will be depleted this fall. However, since our last notice, we have received additional communication from HUD just today that their plan is to fund EHV Housing Assistance Payments through the end of the year. Additionally, we have been actively pursuing every viable option available to extend rental assistance for as long as possible. We are working with HUD, reviewing whether other HUD program resources may be used, exploring whether EHV households can be transitioned to the regular Housing Choice Voucher program, and seeking local and state funding that could support a temporary bridge program if federal solutions are not approved.

Our preferred outcome is clear: we would like every leased EHV household to continue receiving rental assistance without interruption. Unfortunately, because of the inadequate funding Congress has provided for the regular voucher program, HACSB does not currently have the ability to simply convert all EHV households to regular Housing Choice Vouchers. We are asking HUD for flexibility and approval to use other available HUD program resources to help make such transitions possible. We are also continuing to advocate for additional federal assistance, including Tenant Protection Vouchers or other replacement funding.

While we cannot yet promise permanent replacement assistance, staff fully expects to bring a recommended continued bridge funding plan to the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners at its August 5th Board meeting. At a minimum, if federal EHV funding is depleted and no permanent federal solution is available, we expect to recommend that HACSB provide some level of bridge assistance for at least six months after the federal EHV funding ends, and hopefully longer if resources allow.

I also want to acknowledge the unfairness of this situation. The EHV program was created as a temporary program, but it was originally expected to last longer than it now will. The current wind-

down is not because of anything you did wrong, nor is it because HACSB wants this program to end. It is happening because the federal funding for the program is being depleted nationally earlier than originally expected, and no permanent replacement funding has yet been provided.

I know this letter still may not give you the certainty you need or deserve today. But I hope it gives you some reassurance that your Housing Authority is not standing still. We are working urgently and seriously to identify replacement or bridge funding, to advocate with HUD and federal representatives, and to protect as many EHV households as possible from losing assistance.

We will continue to keep you informed as soon as we have more information. In the meantime, please continue to comply with all program requirements and respond to any requests from HACSB staff. This will help ensure that, if additional funding or transition opportunities become available, your household remains in the best possible position to receive continued assistance.

Thank you for your patience during this very difficult and uncertain time. Please know that we see you, we understand the seriousness of what is at stake, and we will continue doing everything within our authority and available resources to help.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Tiffany Morten at tmorten@hacsb.org or 805-897-1084, or Perla Vega at pvega@hacsb.org or 805-897-1024.

Sincerely,

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE
CITY OF SANTA BARBARA



ROB L. FREDERICKS
Executive Director/CEO