

# Biz Briefs

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## **Realtors association grants \$50,000 to trust fund**

**BY SCOTT PALMER**

The California Association of Realtors, in an effort to combat high housing costs for the local workforce, recently awarded the Housing Trust Fund of Santa Barbara County with a \$50,000 grant.

The grant is intended to develop an innovative workforce homeownership program that will create new homebuyer opportunities for local workers. Using resources from the local community, real estate professionals, the development community, and financial institutions will aim to reduce the cost of housing in Santa Barbara County by assisting employees who want to purchase a home.

Specifically, the trust fund will introduce housing-cost reduction strategies with the development community to lower the initial price of the homes and provide various forms of financial assistance through the homebuyer's employer.

The program intends to preserve the long-term affordability of housing for future generations of the workforce, according to the trust fund.

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