

Housing Trust Fund of Santa Barbara County

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Workforce Housing Grant Awarded

Santa Barbara, CA—October 16, 2006. The Housing Trust Fund of Santa Barbara County (HTF) has received a generous grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the California Association of Realtors' *Housing Affordability Fund (HTF)* to initiate an innovative Workforce Home Ownership Program. The program will expand home buying opportunities for local workers by combining resources from employers, the development community and financial institutions to achieve cost reductions and provide financial assistance to help employees purchase homes in Santa Barbara County's high cost housing market.

To address the critical workforce housing needs of Santa Barbara County residents and to explore how communities can provide opportunities for employees to live in the community where they work, The Housing Trust Fund of Santa Barbara County and community partners are hosting a regional **Workforce Housing Summit "A Call to Action: Housing Our Workforce"** on Wednesday, October 18, 2006 from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Santa Maria.

For More Information about the Housing Trust Fund of Santa Barbara County, please contact Jennifer McGovern at (805) 685-1949 email: j.mcgovern@sbhousingtrust.org or visit www.sbhousingtrust.org

About the Housing Trust Fund:

HTF is a non-profit agency working to maintain the social fabric of Santa Barbara County by addressing the fundamental building block and need of our communities--housing that is affordable to local workers and residents. HTF is a 'bridge builder' working to span the 'affordability gap' between the cost of housing and what people can afford to pay. HTF creates innovative partnerships and resources to meet community affordable housing needs. HTF supports projects that enhance the quality of life, neighborhoods and the sense of community and that preserve the long-term affordability of the housing for future generations of workers and residents.

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