



## Housing Policy Statement

The Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB), in accordance with human rights declarations and documents (UN) and fair housing laws (DFEH), recognizes that housing that is “adequate for health and well-being,” affordable, accessible, and habitable, as well as free from discrimination based on race, cultural identity, national origin, language, age, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, immigration status, income or use of a housing assistance program/voucher, **is a human right**. Further, in concert with human rights bodies and legal decisions, CAB opposes the criminalization of homelessness and supports low barrier and housing first policies and efforts. CAB recognizes that homelessness and housing vulnerability, including overcrowded housing, impacts physical and mental health, educational outcomes, food security and the ability to live free from violence, abuse and harassment.

*Therefore, given the on-going challenges of homelessness and housing unaffordability in our community, which mirrors and often exceeds regional, statewide and national rates and trends,*

### **WE AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING:**

- ❖ CAB recognizes that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of self and family, including housing. CAB supports efforts such as increased, livable minimum wages and initiatives to ensure an adequate standard of living, including universal basic income.
- ❖ CAB supports the maintenance, refurbishing and construction of affordable housing and inclusionary units, including for farmworkers, and the commitment of enough public and/or private resources to fund it. Housing must be affordable relative to income and cost no more than 30% of household income.
- ❖ CAB supports the preservation and increase in public funding for affordable housing programs serving low-income households such as housing choice vouchers and rental assistance and supports efforts to increase acceptance of housing vouchers and assistance programs by landlords.
- ❖ CAB opposes public charge rules against immigrants that impact their ability to access affordable housing.
- ❖ CAB supports reform of land use policies to advance affordability, accessibility, sustainability and equity in housing, including for workforce housing efforts (e.g. farmworkers and educators).
- ❖ CAB opposes tax advantages for second/multiple non-owner occupied or vacation homes and supports efforts to increase revenue through these or other speculative real estate to support affordable housing.
- ❖ CAB supports the equitable and fair distribution of disaster (fire, earthquakes, floods, health crises/pandemics, etc.) recovery funds to support affordable housing for all low-income people, regardless of immigration status.
- ❖ CAB opposes non-just cause evictions and supports eviction moratoriums that protect against disaster-based economic hardship as well as reasonable rent increase limits on **all** forms/types of housing and housing programs.
- ❖ CAB opposes the criminalization of homelessness and supports resources and connections to services such as safe shelter, counseling services, public restrooms and hand washing stations, shower, laundry and storage facilities for the protection of possessions and health of those experiencing homelessness.