



Some facts about homeownership in California:

California's ongoing housing shortage means a scarcity of ownership and rental housing for households at every income level and leaves low-and moderate-income households without affordable options. 2.6M California households (20%) spend at least half of their income on housing costs; 55% of renter household, spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

The rate of homeownership for Black and Latinx households is much lower than the state's ownership rate due to decades-long discriminatory and exclusionary housing policies such as redlining which excluded buyers from certain geographic areas and from access to traditional financing opportunities based on race and ethnicity. **Only 41% of Black households and 46% of Latinx households own their homes**, compared to the statewide ownership rate of 56% and the even higher ownership rate of 66% for White households.

Home equity represents the largest portion of wealth for U.S. households and homeownership is the number one means of accumulating generational wealth – something Non-White households have historically and systematically been denied access to. **Three primary barriers remain today – housing supply shortage, lack of down payment, and unequal access to financing.**

Sources: Census.gov, Joint Center for Housing studies of Harvard University, US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development, Turner Center UC Berkeley

Habitat for Humanity narrows the racial gap in ownership and wealth by constructing affordable homes and providing affordable mortgages to first-time low-income home buyers, including underserved veterans, older adults, and people with disabilities.

**81%**

of Habitat home buyers
are Black, Indigenous and
People of Color (BIPOC)

**15%**

of Habitat households
include veterans served
through homeownership
or home preservation

**33%**

of Habitat households
include a family member
with a disability

Habitat borrowers earn 30 to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), with an average of 54% AMI.

Our Priorities & Policy Solutions



advance homeownership for lower-income households



close the gap in homeownership rates across race and ethnicity

PROTECT the homeownership set-aside provision in SB 2 (Atkins, 2018). The Building Homes and Jobs Act provides a permanent source of funding for affordable housing through a \$75 recordation fee. 20% of all the money in the Trust Fund collected on or after January 1, 2019 must be spent on affordable owner-occupied workforce housing.

SECURE additional homeownership-specific funding of \$1 billion in SB 5 (Atkins, 2020). Senator Atkins' housing bond act creates bond revenue financing for housing related projects serving homeless, extremely low income and very low-income Californians over the next decade.

ADVOCATE for an increase in access to land, funding, and financial counseling for low-income households and communities of color. We promote equitable opportunities to build generational wealth through homeownership and to overcome historical racist housing and financing policies.

Policy Solutions

SPONSOR SB 728 (Hertzberg) – Density Bonus

SPONSOR AB 345 (Quirk-Silva) – ADU conveyance

SPONSOR AB 1095 (Cooley) – Funding Parity in State Programs

SPONSOR AB 602 (Grayson) – Impact Fee Transparency

SUPPORT AB 1466 (McCarty) – Addresses Racially Restrictive Covenants

SUPPORT AB 753 (Grayson) – Trust Fund Underground Storage Clean Up Brownfield sites

SUPPORT AB 1401 (Friedman) – Parking Requirement Reform

SUPPORT SB 9 (Atkins) – Land Use/Production - Split Lot Provisions

SUPPORT SB 625 (Caballero) – Home Investment and Innovation Fund

SUPPORT SB 290 (Skinner) – Density Bonus Improvements for Affordable Home Production

Have questions? Want more information?

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