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## **Santa Barbara Better Together Fund Provides Grants for Carpinteria's Small Businesses**

Carpinteria, CA - The Santa Barbara Foundation announced today the launch of the Santa Barbara Better Together Fund Small Business Grant Program for the City of Carpinteria. The program will help dozens of Carpinteria businesses reopen with COVID-19 safety measures in place.

The Santa Barbara Better Together Fund (SBBT) was set up at the Santa Barbara Foundation as a committee advised fund in March of 2020 with an initial \$500,000 donation from [Deckers Brands](#). The fund will help local businesses survive these uncertain times, which in turn will help sustain our community.

"We have yet to understand the long-term effects that COVID-19 will have on our region's small businesses," said Jackie Carrera, President & CEO of the Santa Barbara Foundation. "SBBT Fund is a great opportunity to help fill gaps in the short-term for these businesses where federal and private funding may not be readily available."

The Santa Barbara Better Together Fund is made up of representatives from Deckers and Santa Barbara Foundation, and local experts. Distribution of the funds are voted on by the committee members.

The Santa Barbara Better Together Fund provided its first grant in the amount of \$125,000 to [Women's Economic Ventures \(WEV\)](#) for financial support to the small business community in Santa Barbara County through [WEV's ReStart Loan Program](#). The next step for Santa Barbara Better Together Fund is to provide grants directly to small businesses in the City of Carpinteria.

"We are so fortunate to receive this support in Carpinteria," said Wade Nomura, Mayor of the City of Carpinteria. "The COVID-19 pandemic has been tremendously challenging for our local businesses, and this grant program is a wonderful example of generous community members and businesses providing for other businesses in need."

The City of Carpinteria and Santa Barbara Foundation partnership will support grants from the Santa Barbara Better Together Fund, to qualifying local Carpinteria small businesses as they reopen and adapt to operating under proper public health guidelines due to COVID-19. Grant awards are available to eligible businesses until funds have been depleted.



Outreach will be comprehensive and targeted to locally owned and operated businesses in Carpinteria. In addition, priority will be given but not limited to child care, to-go food service, service industry, and outdoor dining businesses.

“Providing support to local small businesses will help to combat community deterioration,” said Jessica Sanchez, Director of Donor Services of the Santa Barbara Foundation. “We believe that this program will benefit the entire community.”

For more information or to download an application, please visit the City of Carpinteria COVID-19 Hub: <https://carpinteriahub.com/> or call City Hall at 805-684-5405.

### **About Santa Barbara Foundation**

The Santa Barbara Foundation, the largest community foundation in the region and the county’s go-to resource for investment and capacity-building, strives to mobilize and elevate all residents to thrive. Nearly every Santa Barbara County nonprofit organization and essential community project has been supported by the Foundation during its 92-year history.

The Foundation is working to improve areas that affect quality of life in Santa Barbara County including childcare, workforce development, and workforce housing. The Foundation connects those who give with those in need - and all who dream of stronger communities. To learn more, please visit [SBFoundation.org](http://SBFoundation.org).

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