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Santa Barbara Better Together Fund Provides Grants for Santa Maria Small Businesses

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CA - The Santa Barbara Foundation announced today the launch of the Santa Barbara Better Together Fund Small Business Grant Program partnership with the City of Santa Maria, to help those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Santa Maria and Santa Barbara Foundation partnership will support grants from the Santa Barbara Better Together Fund of **up to \$7,500 per grant** to qualifying small businesses located within the City of Santa Maria 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.

The application is available from Tuesday, September 1 through Wednesday, September 9. Please review the **SBBT Small Business Grant Program guidelines** for further details.

Learn more in English: SBFoundation.org/covid-19-business-community-resources/sbbt-small-business-grant-program-guidelines-santa-maria/

Para aprender más en Español: SBFoundation.org/covid-19-business-community-resources/sbbt-small-business-grant-program-spanish-guidelines-santa-maria/

“These efforts to support local businesses today will help many to survive these tough times, and help ensure a strong community in the future,” said Santa Maria Mayor Alice Patino. “We need to help our neighbors when times are tough, and we all look forward to returning to normal.”

The City is committing \$125,000 to this effort.



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.

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](#). In August, the Santa Barbara Better Together Fund provided grant programs for small businesses in the City of Goleta, City of Carpinteria, unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County and SBBT now wishes to do the same for the City of Santa Maria.

“The long-term effects of COVID-19 pandemic are yet to be known,” said Jessica Sanchez, Director of Donor Services at the Santa Barbara Foundation. “We are collaborating with SBBT and Santa Barbara County cities to ensure small businesses thrive for the long term, so that they in turn, can help sustain the vitality of our community.”

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.

About the City of Santa Maria

The business-friendly “All America City” of Santa Maria has a diverse economy. The City government provides a full range of municipal services including police and fire protection, street maintenance, public transportation, recreation, parks, library, water, wastewater, refuse and recycling services, planning, building, safety services - and more. To learn more, visit cityofsantamaria.org. Employers are also assisted by the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, santamaria.com.

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