



THE DAVID & LUCILE

Packard Foundation

California Communities Initiative

Initiative Overview

The Packard Foundation was founded in California in 1964. Ever since, we've had a deep and enduring connection to the Golden State. Guided by David and Lucile Packard's belief that philanthropy begins at home, we've supported and partnered with thousands of community organizations in our home state to help ensure that the promise and possibility of California is attainable for all.



The Challenge

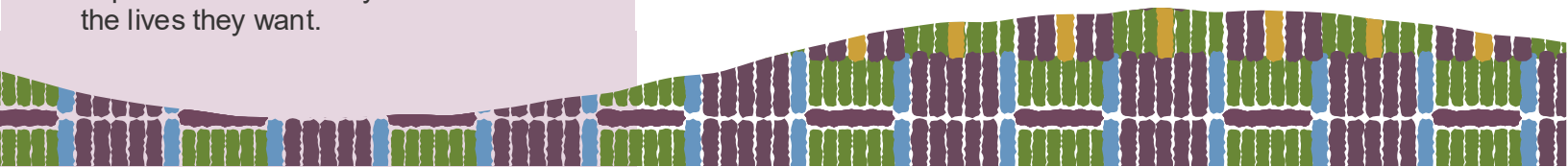
California, a global leader in business and innovation is home to an incredibly diverse population, vibrant culture, and unparalleled natural beauty. But the challenges our communities face are more complex than ever before. We have a deepening housing crisis. The unequal impacts of climate change, such as excessive heat, pose significant challenges for communities with limited resources. And many families don't have access to clean air and water or green space to get outdoors safely. These factors impede families as they work to build the lives they want.

Our Goal

We envision a future California where families have stable, affordable housing, so they can put down roots and be active in their communities; where everyone, regardless of income or zip code, has access to clean air and water and safe green spaces for recreation, so they can be healthier and build resilience to the effects of climate change; and where individuals and families have trusted local organizations they can turn to for support, resources, and build community bonds. That's why we work with partners and grantees to ensure that California communities are strong, resilient places where people create enduring solutions for stable housing, healthy environments, and community-based services to help all children and families thrive.

Our Strategy

Acting on our belief that philanthropy begins at home means addressing some of the most pressing and interconnected challenges that make it harder for California communities to thrive. The California Communities initiative's grantmaking supports communities in Fresno, Monterey, San Benito, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties, building on decades of collaboration with leaders in these communities.





Our initiative works through three primary portfolios:

1

Promote access to stable and affordable housing

When families have stable, affordable housing, they can put down roots, stay active in communities, and shape their lives. To help make this possible, we invest in a comprehensive approach that aims to protect tenants from displacement, prevent and resolve homelessness, and promote the preservation of existing affordable housing when appropriate as well as the production of new affordable housing. Our grantees devise innovative approaches to keep families in their homes and pursue systems-level work to address and resolve homelessness.

2

Create and protect healthy environments

All families deserve to live in safe, supportive, healthy natural environments. Recognizing the intersectional nature of community well-being, we support efforts across clean air and water, healthy ecosystems, green space access, and climate resilience. We focus on regions with the greatest need, partnering with grantees and local leaders to identify and invest in locally driven solutions that aim to garner public resources and shape local and regional policies so they promote healthy environment outcomes.

3

Foster community vitality

Thriving communities are more than just shared geographic locations on a map. We work to foster community vitality so individuals and families can turn to trusted community-based organizations and networks for access to high-quality, dependable programs and services. We support civic engagement and leadership development, so communities can build power and have a voice in public decisions. We invest in cultural institutions that cultivate a sense of belonging and bring people together to bridge divides and spark meaningful dialogue. And we support vital community organizations—such as food banks, cultural centers, and multi-service agencies; these trusted community hubs are where neighbors become communities and where people turn for support in times of crisis.

LEARN MORE

For more information about the Packard Foundation's California Communities initiative, visit packard.org/initiative/california-communities-initiative.

