

April 8, 2019



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Mayor Liccardo and the San Jose City Council
[200 E. Santa Clara Street](#), 18th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Via email

Re: Affordable Housing Investment Plan Update [Item 4.3 on the April 9 meeting agenda]

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

I write in support of the memorandum authored by Councilmembers Davis and Esparza recommending that 45% of our affordable housing funds be allocated towards extremely low-income (ELI) housing.

Making this strong commitment to ELI housing not only benefits the most vulnerable residents in our community who are far too often left behind, it will also help us address the largest gap in our housing inventory. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the San Jose metro area has a deficit of 38,689 units that are available and affordable for ELI households. As a result, we only have about 30 affordable and available units for every 100 ELI households.

We see this every day at Sacred Heart, where, in a given week, 100-150 families seek rental assistance because they cannot afford housing, and nearly everyone who comes for any of our services is unhoused or housing insecure.

Overall, 73% of ELI renters in our metro area are severely cost-burdened and spend more than half of their income on rent. In contrast, only 41% of very low-income households and 11% of low-income households are severely cost-burdened. Clearly, the need for more affordable housing is greatest among our lowest-income households, and that's where we should prioritize our limited affordable housing dollars.

Let's ensure that San Jose remains a community that's affordable for people of all means. Please vote in favor of the proposal from Councilmembers Davis and Esparza.

Sincerely,

Poncho Guevara
Executive Director
Sacred Heart Community Service