



SMALL
BUSINESS

Anti-Displacement Network

2024 Call for Case Studies: Community Ownership Strategies to Prevent Small Business Displacement

[Submit your proposal](#) by Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET

[Register to attend a pre-proposal information session](#) on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. ET.

Introduction

The [Small Business Anti-Displacement Network](#) is accepting proposals for case studies of community ownership strategies that prevent small business displacement in gentrifying neighborhoods. We are particularly interested in examples of strategies that have worked for BIPOC and immigrant businesses and communities.

Community ownership is a long-term solution that allows community members and stakeholders to control commercial assets, land, and enterprises. It provides stability for small businesses and helps avoid commercial gentrification pressures, including rapid rent increases. Community ownership can be a catalyst for asset- and wealth-building in low-wealth communities, helping to promote community control and self-determination. Community ownership models support both individual and collective ownership.

Case studies should examine how community ownership strategies allow vulnerable small businesses to remain and thrive in their communities. They should offer lessons for combating commercial gentrification. Examples of potential topics include:

- Commercial Condominiums
- Commercial Cooperatives

- Community Land Trusts
- Commercial Property Acquisition Funds
- Community Investment Trusts

Please refer to the [Small Business Anti-Displacement Toolkit](#) for a description of these and other topics. This list is not exhaustive and we welcome proposals to study anti-displacement efforts not listed in the toolkit.

The Small Business Anti-Displacement Network

The [Small Business Anti-Displacement Network](#) (SBAN) is a network of organizations across the U.S. and internationally that work to prevent displacement of BIPOC- and immigrant-owned small businesses in gentrifying neighborhoods. Housed at the University of Maryland's [National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education](#), SBAN includes policymakers, nonprofit advocates, technical assistance providers, real estate developers, financial institutions, scholars, and small business owners who share knowledge and collaborate to advance innovative policies and practices that keep small businesses in place.

Purpose and Eligibility

Selected case studies will explore promising anti-displacement policies and practices deployed by organizations across the United States and internationally. This is an opportunity to highlight the efforts of organizations doing impactful small business anti-displacement work and to share lessons to an audience of diverse, cross-sector stakeholders.

We encourage submissions from organizations and individuals in the public, private, and non-profit sectors (including universities). We particularly invite submissions from BIPOC- and immigrant-led organizations and from SBAN members.

Process

Grantees will have the opportunity to learn from other case study teams and receive consultant support from SBAN experts while researching and producing their case studies. Grantees will be invited to participate in individual and group meetings with fellow case study authors, held virtually, during which SBAN staff and grantees will provide peer-to-peer advice on how to build frameworks for analysis, conduct policy-relevant research, and share lessons with stakeholders in and beyond each grantee's metropolitan area.

Final Product

The final case study is expected to be a 25-30 page narrative document that includes graphics, photos, and other visual material. This should include a detailed description of the specific anti-displacement tool(s) or strategy deployed and recommendations for other organizations that wish to advance similar work. The case study should be supported by a description of the individual or organization submitting the study and the community context in which the case study is being implemented. Please refer to [examples of previous SBAN case studies and a sample outline](#). SBAN will publish awarded case studies in 2025 and provide limited copy editing and graphic design support for the final document.

Final Presentation

All grantees are expected to present their work at the SBAN policy summit to be held virtually in the fall of 2024 and at the 2025 SBAN conference to be held in-person in the fall of 2025. Additional details on the dates and requirements for these presentations will be provided to grantees. Grantees may also be invited to present their work to the SBAN network and other stakeholders at other SBAN convenings, such as working groups and webinars.

Case Study Site Visits

SBAN will select two case study grantees to host site visits to the neighborhood(s) on which their study focuses. Site visits will provide SBAN members with a first-hand look at how communities are combating displacement through community ownership efforts. Case study applicants are encouraged to apply to host a site visit. This is part of the case study application process (see submission requirement below). No separate application is required. **Awards will not be given solely for site visits and must be in conjunction with a case study award.**

The site visit will be a participatory workshop that complements and informs attendees ongoing work in their communities and organizations. During the visit, attendees will engage in peer-to-peer conversations, sharing advice and experiences. For the host organizations, the visits will be an opportunity to showcase their work to a national audience of small business advocates and apply attendee feedback to their work.

Site visits will be held in the fall of 2024 and the spring of 2025. Each will be two full days of engagement with approximately 20 SBAN members and staff, plus host

organization staff. Hosts are also welcome to invite local stakeholders, such as small businesses, community leaders, and elected representatives.

SBAN's previous case study site visits are featured in our new film [We're Still Here](#), which highlights efforts to combat displacement and fight gentrification in Miami's Little Santo Domingo, Chicago's Puerto Rico Town, and the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Boyle Heights and East LA.

See these [sample site visit agendas](#) for more information about how to plan the two-day visit.

Grantee Awards

SBAN will select no more than 6 case study awardees. Of these, 2 will also be selected to host site visits.

Each case study awardee will receive \$15,000. This is meant to cover the staff time and any research and travel expenses needed to produce the case study and present at the required conferences. An additional \$10,000 will be granted to applicants selected to host site visits. This is meant to cover staff time and direct expenses of hosting the visit.

Timeline

Proposals are due Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET at www.antidisplacement.org/case-studies/case-studies-2024.

Interested applicants are invited to attend a pre-proposal information session on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. ET. Register to attend the webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sban-2024-call-for-case-studies-pre-proposal-webinar-tickets-852434714177>.

Key case study dates are:

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| ● Pre-proposal webinar for interested parties | Thursday, March 14, 2024 |
| ● Proposal submissions due | Thursday, April 18, 2024 |
| ● Announcement of selected proposals | Thursday, May 16, 2024 |
| ● Kick-off webinar for grantees | Thursday, June 6, 2024 |
| ● Work plan and outline due | July 2024 (date TBD) |
| ● Site Visit 1 | Fall 2024 (date TBD) |
| ● Virtual SBAN policy summit presentation | Fall 2024 (date TBD) |

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| ● Draft case study & graphics due | February 2025 (date TBD) |
| ● Site Visit 2 | Spring 2025 (date TBD) |
| ● Final case study due | June 2025 (date TBD) |
| ● In-person SBAN conference presentation | November 2025 (date TBD) |

Submission Requirements

Please submit your proposal using the [online form on the SBAN website](#). The form will ask you to upload additional information. Major submission requirements include:

- Information about the organization, project leaders, and staff, including the roles and resumes of key project members.
- A narrative description of the anti-displacement tool or strategy, including existing evidence of impact or contribution to advancing anti-displacement policies and practices, and the proposed documentation strategy (maximum of five pages).
- A narrative description that provides evidence of organizational or individual capacity to complete the proposed study scope, relationships with the community in which anti-displacement efforts are taking place, and evidence of related experience, including references (maximum of three pages).
- A budget and budget narrative for all expenses, including staff time (rates and hours), consultant fees, and any indirect costs.
- For those proposing to host a site visit, a narrative that describes the purpose of the site visit and its relation to the case study; statement of organizational experience hosting site visits and capacity to manage the visit; and a tentative list of expected local guests and sites to be visited (maximum of three pages).
- For those proposing to host a site visit, a separate budget and budget narrative for all expenses, including staff time (rates and hours), consultant fees, and any direct costs, including local transportation and food for attendees.

Review Process

SBAN's senior leadership and staff will review case study proposals using the following criteria:

- The quality of response, including the case study approach and significance;
- The applicant's capacity to complete the proposed scope, including technical and staff capacity;

- The applicant's relationship to the community, including business, public sector, and community-based organizations that can inform the work; and
- The applicant's willingness and capacity to host a site visit to complement and showcase the case study.

Site visit applications will additionally be reviewed for:

- How the site visit incorporates the tools and strategies on which the case study is based;
- Experience hosting similar site visits;
- Organizational capacity to manage the logistics of the site visit; and
- Relevance of sites to be visited to the purpose of the site visit.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the SBAN case study team at SBAN@umd.edu.