



2025 Call for Case Studies: Strategies to Combat Climate Gentrification and Prevent Small Business Displacement

[Submit your proposal](#) by Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. ET

[Register to attend a pre-proposal information session](#) on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. ET.

Introduction

The [Small Business Anti-Displacement Network](#) is accepting proposals for case studies of efforts to combat climate gentrification and prevent small business displacement. We are particularly interested in examples of strategies that have worked for BIPOC and immigrant businesses and communities impacted by climate disasters, long-term effects of climate change, climate migration, or climate resilience investments that kickstart or compound gentrification.

Climate-related gentrification is increasingly affecting communities and small businesses. Public and private climate-related investments—both preventative measures and post-disaster efforts—can significantly change neighborhoods, displacing small businesses and the residents whom they serve. BIPOC- and immigrant-owned small businesses in under-resourced neighborhoods are particularly vulnerable to both climate disasters and climate-related gentrification.

As climate events become more frequent and mitigation investment more common in cities across the country, more needs to be done to center equitable approaches to climate resilience and protect small businesses. SBAN is working to identify, research, and share effective strategies for keeping businesses in place in neighborhoods vulnerable to climate gentrification. Case studies are a key part of building this knowledge.

Visit antidisplacement.org/toolkit/climate to read about potential tools and download our [Climate Gentrification & Small Business Displacement Explainer](#) to learn more.

Please note that we are looking for case studies that address climate *gentrification and displacement* and its impact on small businesses, not strategies that solely help small businesses recover from climate disasters or address climate change in areas that are not vulnerable to gentrification.

Case studies should examine strategies and practical tools that directly address climate-related threats to small businesses in gentrifying neighborhoods, whether gentrification and displacement is caused or compounded by climate change. We are looking for strategies that allow vulnerable small businesses to remain and thrive in their communities. Case studies should offer lessons for combating commercial gentrification and displacement due to climate mitigation investments, climate migration, long-term climate impacts, or climate disasters.

Examples of potential topics include:

- Disaster preparedness and community resilience plans
- Disaster assistance funding programs
- Commercial rent regulations that respond to climate events
- Commercial facade improvement programs that fund climate resilience measures
- Technical assistance programs to help businesses prepare for or respond to climate events

This list is not exhaustive and we welcome proposals to study other climate-related anti-displacement efforts.

The Small Business Anti-Displacement Network

The [Small Business Anti-Displacement Network](#) is a network of more than 170 organizations across the United States 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](#), 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 that organizations and institutions across the United States and abroad are deploying in communities impacted by climate change. This is an opportunity to highlight the efforts of organizations doing impactful small business anti-displacement work and to share lessons with diverse, cross-sector stakeholders.

We encourage submissions from SBAN members and from organizations and individuals in public, private, and non-profit sectors (including universities).

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 2026 in a professionally designed report. Awardees will work with SBAN staff and editors on a final version for publication.

Final Presentation

All grantees are expected to present their work at the SBAN summit on climate gentrification, to be held virtually in the fall of 2026. 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 climate gentrification and supporting impacted small businesses. 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). **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 spring of 2026. 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 2023 case study site visits are featured in our 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. In 2025, we are visiting the Mission District of San Francisco and several Minneapolis neighborhoods to learn about community ownership tools that support small businesses.

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 six case study awardees. Of these, two may 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 the staff time and direct expenses of hosting the visit (see “Additional Requirements for Site Visit Proposals” below).

Timeline

Proposals are due Wednesday, May 28, 2025 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, April 17, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. ET via Zoom. [Register](#) to attend the info session.

Key case study dates are:

- Pre-proposal webinar for interested parties Thursday, April 17, 2025
- Proposal submissions due Wednesday, May 28, 2025
- Announcement of selected proposals Monday, June 23, 2025
- Kick-off webinar for grantees Thursday, July 24, 2025
- Work plan and outline due Wednesday, September 17 2025 (date TBD)
- Draft case study & graphics due February 2026 (date TBD)
- Site Visit 1 Spring 2026 (date TBD)
- Site Visit 2 Spring 2026 (date TBD)
- Final case study due June 2026 (date TBD)
- Presentation at SBAN climate summit (virtual) November 2026

Submission Requirements

Please [submit your proposal on the SBAN website](#). The application form will ask you to upload information using a Word template, which you can also [download here](#).

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.

Additional Requirements for Site Visit Proposals

- 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. If your proposed budget exceeds \$10,000, SBAN will review for potential stipend increase. SBAN expects that site visit hosts cover at least the cost of morning hotel transportation for all SBAN guests for two days and a welcome dinner, two breakfasts, two lunches, and two coffee breaks during the visit.

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.

Additional Questions & FAQs

If you have additional questions, please read our [2025 Call for Case Studies FAQs](#). Please also sign up for our [pre-proposal information session](#) on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. ET.

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