The Power of Residents

An Emerging Success

**The Residents United Network (RUN)** promotes civic engagement among people historically excluded from decision-making tables to advance sound, equitable policy solutions that address affordable housing, homelessness and economic opportunity.

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**How Do We RUN?**

**Grow Statewide Power**

RUN operates in Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Recent expansion work has focused on building effective initiatives in Inland Empire, Orange County, Silicon Valley, and the San Joaquin Valley. This expansion is part of RUN’s Strategic Plan to build support for housing justice in state legislative districts where the need is high but political will is misaligned. Since 2014, membership has grown from 400 to more than 1400.

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**Build New Leaders**

RUN members receive leadership development and policy training that supports meaningful engagement in civic life. Each year, RUN trains approximately 400 people at bi-annual regional meetings and hosts 200 leaders at Housing California’s Lobby Day. Additionally, RUN provides a free online training series that covers topics such as “Organizing 101” and “How to be an Effective Leader.”
Theresa Winkler of Los Angeles reflects on her leadership growth over three years with RUN:

“I work with RUN to use my voice for those on the street. When I was homeless, my voice didn’t count. Getting an affordable home and being part of CSH and RUN made me realize my voice counted. If a politician or someone approached me back when I was homeless, I’d run away. I’d assume I was “in trouble.” Now I sit at the same table with those politicians. I testify at County Supervisor meetings. I go to Lobby Day and tell my story. I was asked by the President Pro Tem of the California Senate to speak at a press conference about my experience of homelessness.”

Advocate for Transformative State Legislation

RUN helped pass the following legislation:

SB 2 (Atkins) - Part of the legislative housing package of 2017, SB 2 created a permanent funding source for affordable housing. Passing a permanent source was a founding goal of RUN – and achieved in four years.

SB 23 (Mitchell) - Repealed the CalWorks maximum family grant, a key win for low-income families.

AB 447 (Maienschein) - Prohibited Housing Choice Voucher property insurance discrimination.

SB 1380 (Mitchell) - Established California as a “Housing First” state. RUN members held a Twitterstorm targeted at the Governor using #shelterfromtherain, urging him to sign the bill. He signed the next day despite expectations of a veto.

What's Next?

Grow an Affordable Housing Justice Voter Base

Housing California is working with developers and service providers to identify affordable housing developments throughout California. This data will allow RUN to engage more residents in policy advocacy and our newly launched voter engagement platform. Our goal is to build the organizing power of affordable housing residents to ensure that housing policy reflects our vision for a California for All.