



Office of the City Manager

October 19, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Re: Outreach for 2021 Earthquake Brace + Bolt Rebate

Berkeley homeowners can once again sign up for the [Earthquake Brace + Bolt](#) program, which offers rebates of up to \$3,000 for residential seismic upgrades, or even more for income qualified households. This year's program enrollment dates are October 27 to December 1, 2021. The Planning & Development Department, in coordination with the Office of Emergency Services, asks City Council to help spread the word about this limited time seismic retrofit program.

Participants can enroll with the [Earthquake Brace + Bolt](#) rebate program online or over the phone. It is open to owner-occupied single-family residences and small multifamily buildings (1-4 units) in Berkeley. Qualifying applicants will be entered into a lottery for the funding. For the first time, additional grant funds up to 100% of the seismic retrofit cost will also be available to households whose annual incomes are at or below \$72,080.

Since March 2016, more than 460 Berkeley homeowners have received Earthquake Brace + Bolt rebates, bringing in nearly \$1.4 million in state funding and increasing the resilience of our community.

Incentives from the California Earthquake Brace + Bolt Program help pay for seismic upgrades to houses most vulnerable to severe damage -- pre-1980, wood-framed houses with raised foundations that may have unbraced "cripple walls," the short wood-framed wall surrounding the crawl space under the first floor. Bolting houses to their foundations and bracing the cripple walls helps prevent homes from sliding and collapsing during an earthquake.

In addition to the state's Earthquake Brace + Bolt rebates, homeowners in Berkeley can get a [rebate on transfer taxes](#) for seismic improvements made within a year of purchase. Commercial, multifamily and residential property owners can also use [Property Assessed Clean Energy \(PACE\)](#) financing to borrow money for seismic improvements, with no upfront costs and payback over time on their property bills.

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Re: Earthquake Brace + Bolt

Please share information about Earthquake Brace + Bolt. Attachment 1 has text and an image to facilitate communication with your constituents.

Attachment 1

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager
LaTanya Bellow, Interim Deputy City Manager
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Jordan Klein, Director, Planning and Development Department

Attachment 1: Earthquake Brace + Bolt Content to Share



Get up to \$3,000 to Strengthen Your Foundation

Sign up by **December 1** to receive a grant of up to \$3,000 for a seismic retrofit. [Earthquake Brace + Bolt](#) is open to owner-occupied single-family residences and small multifamily buildings (1-4 units) in Berkeley and other eligible zip codes. Qualifying applicants will be entered into a lottery for the funding. For the first time, additional grant funds **up to 100% of the seismic retrofit cost** will also be available to income qualified households. Sign up [online](#) or by calling (877) 232-4300

See the City of Berkeley's [Seismic Safety Information and Programs](#) for additional resources, including financing for commercial, multifamily and residential property owners.