

Overview of the Homeownership Alliance

The Homeownership Alliance is a practitioner-led collaboration that advocates for more resources and better policies to increase affordable homeownership opportunities for American families. The Homeownership Alliance's members comprise some of the leading nonprofit, mission-focused homeownership practitioners from across the country. These organizations prepare families to become successful homeowners by financing and developing affordable homes that are assets for communities and the families that live in them.

The mission of the Homeownership Alliance is to increase access to homeownership in order to narrow America's racial wealth gap, improve access to long-term affordable housing, and revitalize disinvested communities without gentrification. The Homeownership Alliance is committed to building a robust, nonprofit-led delivery system that will increase access to homeownership for those who have been left behind by our current system. We will increase the visibility of homeownership as an important means of achieving greater social justice, will advocate for public policies and resources that support affordable homeownership, and will help scale effective homeownership strategies across the country.

The nonprofit developers and lenders who have founded the Homeownership Alliance are driven to develop affordable homeownership opportunities for families, as homeownership is crucial in narrowing America's racial wealth gap. According to the Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances (Sept. 2020), the median wealth of white households is \$188,200 compared with \$24,100 for Black households and \$36,200 for Hispanic households.

This wealth gap is both a cause and an effect of the persistent disparity in homeownership rates, with the Census Bureau reporting a homeownership rate of 74% for white households, 44% for Black households and 48% for Hispanic households in 2021. Since the end of World War II, homeownership has been the primary driver for building generational wealth for American families. However, millions of Americans, especially households of color, have been denied the wealth-building and community-stabilizing benefits of homeownership. Historic policies and ordinances siphoning homeownership opportunities from nonwhite families caused the widening racial homeownership gap we see today.

All of these challenges can be addressed by the work of mission-driven housing developers and lenders. These organizations build and renovate affordable homes and work with families to purchase existing homes using mortgages with fair terms. Creating more resources to support affordable homeownership is critical because homeownership is a key building block for stable, vital neighborhoods as well for the health, education and prosperity of individual families.

Policy Agenda

The Homeownership Alliance has a policy agenda to both increase the impact of current programs that support affordable homeownership and to create new resources to expand this work. The policy agenda includes recommendations for regulatory streamlining to increase homeownership production in <u>the HOME program</u>, the Capital Magnet Fund, New Markets Tax Credits, and <u>CDBG</u>, plus recommendations on improvements to government property disposition programs. The Homeownership Alliance also supports legislation expanding affordable homeownership such as the <u>Neighborhood Homes Investment Act</u>, a tax credit for homeownership in distressed neighborhoods, and new resources to increase the supply of affordable homes for ownership such as our proposal for a <u>Homeownership Finance Fund</u>.

Membership

The Homeownership Alliance has 31 Members and is actively recruiting. The members are: Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership (GA); Beyond Housing (MO); cdcb (TX); Center for Community Self-Help (NC); Champlain Housing Trust (VT); CHN Housing Partners (OH); Cinnaire (MI); Community Housing Capital (GA); Fahe (KY); Hogar Hispano (DC); Holy Name Housing Corporation (NE); Homewise (NM); Housing Development Fund (CT); Housing Resources of Western Colorado (CO); Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership (IN); Intend Indiana (IN); MANNA, Inc. (DC); Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore (MD); Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago (IL); NeighborWorks Columbus (GA); NeighborWorks Southern Colorado (CO); NeighborWorks Western Vermont (VT); New Jersey Community Capital (NJ); Next Step Network (KY); People's Housing+ (LA); Renaissance Community Loan Fund (MS); The Housing Partnership, Inc. (KY); The Resurrection Project (IL); Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity (MN); United Housing (TN); and Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (OH).

Currently, the Alliance is supervised by a Steering Committee consisting of representatives from Homewise, NHS of Chicago, ANDP, Fahe, Intend Indiana, Self-Help, The Resurrection Project, HDF, NeighborWorks Columbus, Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership, Housing Resources of Western Colorado, and CHN Housing Partners. Anthony Simpkins, President and CEO of NHS of Chicago, serves as Chair. The National Community Stabilization Trust provides staffing and support for the Alliance.

For more information, click <u>here.</u>