

Housing Trust Funds 101

Imagine what your community would look like if you had a devoted source of funding for affordable housing. This funding would be used by nonprofit organizations and housing developers to ensure that affordable housing would be available for members of your community. This very model is in use today, effectively ensuring that funds are dedicated to support affordable housing in communities across the county.

What is a housing trust fund?

Housing trust funds are programs established by legislative action and exist on a local, state and national level. They are devoted sources of public revenue that must be spent on affordable housing. In other words, a housing trust fund is a piggy bank of money used for affordable housing.

How does a housing trust fund benefit the community and Habitat for Humanity?

Issue	Benefit
Economy	Helps prevent predatory lending and reduces incidences of foreclosures by providing affordable mortgage alternatives.
Taxes	Increase in homeownership ensures larger property tax pool.
Health Costs	Stable housing is a significant predictor of lowered health costs.
Congestion	HTFs help reduce urban sprawl and allow workers to live closer to their place of employment.
Nonprofit involvement	HTFs typically focus on facilitating nonprofit involvement, and often provide technical assistance and monies for nonprofit capacity building and predevelopment funding.



How can I find out if my community has a housing trust fund?

To find out if your community has a housing trust fund, contact your Habitat for Humanity campus chapter leader or your local Habitat for Humanity affiliate.

How can I advocate for a housing trust fund in my community?

- Partner with your local Habitat for Humanity affiliate.
- Ask your local congressperson to support a local housing trust fund in your community.
- Educate your campus and community about the lack of affordable housing in your community.
- Inform your community about how a housing trust fund could benefit your community and ask others to take action.
- Become an advocate and have your voice heard on issues such as housing trust funds by visiting www.advocatewithhabitat.org.