

Habitat for Humanity Coastal Fairfield County's Dedicated Steps Toward Advancing Black Homeownership

In working to address systemic racial disparities in homeownership, Habitat for Humanity Coastal Fairfield County is taking decisive action through focusing on the Advancing Black Homeownership initiative. Supported by grants from Habitat for Humanity International, including the Advancing Black Homeownership Capacity Build grant and the Larson Barriers to Black Homeownership grant, Habitat Coastal Fairfield County is committed to creating equitable opportunities for Black families seeking homeownership. Under the leadership of Program Manager Gene Gaillard, the affiliate prioritizes supporting Black homebuyers who continue to face obstacles in accessing and maintaining homeownership due to systemic inequalities, discriminatory lending practices, and limited access to financial resources.

The evolving housing market underscores the crucial role of financial education in sustainable homeownership once it is obtained. Understanding the importance of financial literacy and education in sustaining homeownership, Habitat Coastal Fairfield County has partnered with Elevate Financial to provide personalized financial coaching. This program aims to empower prospective homeowners, particularly Black households, with the necessary skills to navigate the intricate financial landscape and achieve successful homeownership.



The Habitat Coastal Fairfield County Advancing Black Homeownership Advisory Committee

At Habitat Coastal Fairfield County, Advancing Black Homeownership extends beyond individual support, to include advocacy and community engagement. The affiliate actively collaborates with influential figures in the community including attorney Donald Smart and Realtor Charles Scott, Sr., leveraging their expertise to advocate for policy reforms that dismantle systemic barriers to Black homeownership. Habitat Coastal Fairfield County is also currently launching an Advancing Black Homeownership Needs Assessment Tool to listen and understand community priorities. The affiliate is eager to finalize and present the tool to the local Minority Business Association.

In 2023, Habitat Coastal Fairfield County created an Advancing Black Homeownership Advisory Committee comprised of esteemed community leaders. This committee serves as a champion of change, as all members are dedicated to advancing racial equity and justice in homeownership. Their collective wisdom and unwavering commitment exemplify a transformative force in the pursuit of closing the Black homeownership and racial wealth gap.

Habitat for Humanity Coastal Fairfield County's commitment to Advancing Black Homeownership not only acknowledges historical injustices but paves the way for tangible, sustainable change. Through collaborative efforts and unwavering dedication, the affiliate is rewriting the narrative, ensuring that homeownership is no longer a distant dream but a shared reality for Black families in the communities they serve.

For more information about Habitat Coastal Fairfield County's work in this area, please contact Advancing Black Homeownership Program Manager, Gene Gillard at egillard@habitatcfc.org.