

Advocacy Platform

Habitat for Humanity believes that it is vital to offer decent and affordable housing opportunities to all residents at every socioeconomic level. This belief helps to ensure diverse communities and equitable access to excellent healthcare, education, and transportation for all residents.

Introduction

Quality housing is housing that is safe, healthy and affordable. Quality housing is foundational to both individuals and families, and for meeting our most basic needs for living and providing opportunities to flourish. Increased family stability, better health and nutrition, improved educational outcomes, increased job retention and productivity, and a greater sense of dignity and pride – these are all connected to stable, decent housing.

Housing Policy Agenda

1. *Advance homeownership opportunities for individuals or families earning less than 80% of Area Median Income.*
 - a. Expand government funding that provides an opportunity for homeownership for lower-income households.
 - b. Improve land use regulations to better enable the development of affordable housing.
2. *Support legislation that allows for the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) within the boundaries of single family detached lots.*
 - a. Allow ADUs on smaller lots (less than 1 acre) that can be detached from the main house.
 - b. Allow ADUs on properties even if that property borders another property with an ADU.
 - c. Allow homeowners to live in either the main home or the ADU and allow the property owner to rent out either unit.
3. *Promote access to a range of safe, healthy, affordable housing options.*
 - a. Promote inclusionary housing policies that lead to socioeconomically integrated communities.
 - b. Promote and expand land banking authority, through which local governments can acquire vacant and abandoned properties and convey them to developers of affordable housing.
 - c. Promote public funding for the repair and weatherization of owner occupied homes of seniors, veterans, and other lower-income households.
 - d. Support legislation that provides “right of first purchase” of tax sale properties for developers of affordable housing.
4. *Promote mixed-use and mixed income communities with access to public transportation.*
 - a. Promote infrastructure investment and affordable transit-oriented development.
 - b. Prevent and mitigate involuntary displacement that often occurs with redevelopment.
 - c. Support blight remediation and proper code enforcement tied to non-displacement strategies.
 - d. Support service programs and civic engagement to promote resident involvement.
5. *Promote financial stability for individuals and families.*
 - a. Increase financial education and housing counseling programs.
 - b. Support tax credits to benefit low-income individuals and families.
 - c. Support asset development and savings programs.
 - d. Support policies that prevent predatory lending.