A NOTE FROM KRISTEN

Since we launched Housing Our Future in 2020, we’ve seen housing affordability at the forefront of local policy discussions. Housing Our Future provides a roadmap to **producing and preserving affordable housing** and to **protecting vulnerable residents from housing insecurity in Cincinnati and Hamilton County**. This work doesn’t happen without a network of dedicated partners who build and finance housing, support renters and homeowners, and support systems change to create a region where all residents can thrive. Together we are making a difference.

Here are just a few highlights from 2022:

**HOUSEHOLDS IN HAMILTON COUNTY, INCLUDING CINCINNATI**

- **100,000** households are cost-burdened
  - 29% of all households in Hamilton County
- **48,000** households are severely cost-burdened
  - 14% of all households in Hamilton County

**PRODUCE**

- 1,572 new units funded in 2020 and 2021

**PROTECT**

- 14,000+ residents received rent and utility assistance in Hamilton County

**PREVENT**

- 1,700 affordable homes renovated or recertified since 2017
Housing Our Future partners are funding and producing more housing:
- Local governments funded 1,572 new units in 2020 and 2021.
- The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners authorized $40.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, including $8 million for renovation, $2 million for a home repair program, and $5 million for mortgage assistance.
- The Homesteading and Urban Redevelopment Corporation (HURC) completed 4 single-family homes in Lincoln Heights affordable to buyers at or below 80% of Area Median Income; with funding secured for 4 more.

Housing Our Future partners have collectively reinvested in our affordable housing stock:
- 1,700 affordable homes have been renovated or recertified since 2017.
- The Port’s CARE Homes initiative acquired 194 single-family homes. Units will be preserved and improved for low-income residents, providing opportunities for homeownership. Working in Neighborhoods (WIN) is working with tenants to prepare for homeownership.
- Price Hill Will’s Homesteading program acquired 4 more homes in 2022, providing innovative, non-traditional homeownership opportunities for very low-income families bringing the total homes in the program to 20.

Housing Our Future partners connected households with rental and utility assistance to keep individuals and families in their homes:
- 14,000+ residents received rent and utility assistance in Hamilton County.
- Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati prevented 1,250+ evictions.
- An eviction prevention program called The Renew Collaborative launched.

Housing Our Future partners are also developing policies and programs that support more affordable housing:
- In June 2022, the City of Cincinnati Housing Solutions Summit brought together community members to explore strategies to produce housing that creates equitable growth and healthy neighborhoods. Emerging from the Summit, “Connected Communities” includes a series of potential policy changes related to land-use that will help Cincinnati grow into a more accessible, people-focused, diverse, healthy, and connected community for all.
- The Affordable Housing Leverage Fund was created, including $100+ million in funding from City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and private contributions. It is managed by CDF.
- Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Greater Cincinnati, Inc. (HOME) released the Roadmap for Increasing Black Homeownership in October 2022. The report outlines policies and programs to promote and preserve Black homeownership.
- LISC invested $660,000 in local non-profit community development corporations (CDCs) to support housing strategies in local markets. LISC also provided capacity building and technical assistance to CDCs through initiatives like Place Matters.
“We’ve got to celebrate the wins so that people will be energized for the next fight.”
- Hamilton County Commissioner President Alicia Reece in the HOF Webinar series
Thanks to Our Steering Committee Members:

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LISC Greater Cincinnati

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The Community Builders

Liz Blume  
Blume Community Partners

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Robie Suggs  
Warsaw Federal

Denise Taylor  
Greater Cincinnati Realtist Association (joined 2023)

William Weber  
City of Cincinnati

Larry Williams  
The Cincinnatus Association
“Housing Our Future laid the groundwork for HOME’s Roadmap to Increasing Black Homeownership and continues to play an important role in driving implementation of the recommendations. It is critical that we focus on increasing and preserving Black homeownership in the Cincinnati region through policies and programs like home repair funds, property tax relief, loan products, and other initiatives.”

Elisabeth Risch
Executive Director, HOME Cincinnati
Housing Our Future Steering Committee Member

“Housing Our Future is an important contribution to our understanding of the needs and challenges of providing affordable housing in our community. In addition to providing compelling numbers that are backed-up by data, it also offers over 100 strategies and ideas that can and should be implemented. HOF makes clear that there is no silver bullet, but it offers numerous credible actions large and small (silver buckshot), that when taken together will make a tremendous difference. These actions will help to produce and preserve thousands of affordable housing units and will protect housing for our most vulnerable residents. It is a must read for anyone that wants to improve the local affordable housing ecosystem.”

Robert Killins, Jr.
Director, Special Initiatives, Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Housing Our Future Steering Committee Member
Housing Our Future is made possible by the support of these generous donors: