



PARTNERSHIP TO END HOMELESSNESS

2023 Impact Report



Partnership to End Homelessness

The Partnership to End Homelessness is the first initiative of its kind to bring together the public and private sectors to increase deeply affordable housing and ensure homelessness in Washington, DC is rare, brief, and non-recurring. The Partnership convenes and leverages the expertise and resources of nonprofit leaders, DC government agencies, funders, donors, advocates, business leaders, people with lived experience, and residents.

Together, we are working to achieve the following goals with a focus on racial equity, housing justice, and community-led solutions:

- Increase the supply of **affordable and supportive housing** for extremely low-income households.
- Help unhoused adults, families, and youth **exit homelessness and obtain stable housing** as quickly as possible.
- **Change public perceptions** about homelessness and affordable housing.
- **Leverage private philanthropy** to create more nimble, strategic, and sustained investments in ending homelessness.





PHOTO CREDIT: People for Fairness Coalition

Dear Partners,

I am pleased to share our 2023 Partnership to End Homelessness Impact Report with you.

Since 2019, the Partnership to End Homelessness has brought together private sector leaders, local government representatives, nonprofits, individual donors and philanthropy, along with DC residents to end homelessness by strengthening systems and supports for people experiencing housing instability and increasing the supply of deeply affordable housing in every ward of the city.

The Partnership is uniquely positioned to leverage and align private sector resources to advance solutions and bring together private sector leaders to champion this work. This report highlights some of our efforts to date and key accomplishments of our nonprofit partners, demonstrating how the Partnership, our donors, and our partners have worked together to advance our shared goals.

We could not have done this without support from partners like you! As we look to the future, we hope you will continue to join us in our efforts. We have a historic opportunity to end chronic homelessness and become the first major city to do so. We also know that, despite our progress, DC continues to experience a housing crisis that must be addressed.

The urgency is real and it will take all of us working together and making bold investments to ensure that DC is a community where everyone has housing they can afford. We thank you for your partnership and look forward to continuing this work together.



Sincerely,

Tonia Wellons
President and CEO
Greater Washington Community Foundation

OUR IMPACT TO DATE



\$18.5 MILLION leveraged/aligned funding

\$15.3 MILLION in assets mobilized for impact investments focused on building and preserving affordable and supportive housing

\$3.2 MILLION granted to support organizations working to end homelessness and support housing stability



OVER 500 HOMES created for low-income households

Along with private sector investments, the scale of the problem requires strong, sustained investments by the public sector to achieve success. In the past three years, our Leadership Council and staff have supported our community partners' efforts to secure essential public investments.



\$794 MILLION for the Housing Production Trust Fund to create affordable housing



\$129 MILLION for emergency rental assistance to prevent evictions



\$155 MILLION to repair and preserve public housing



4,000+ permanent supportive housing vouchers to end homelessness for **3,106 individuals** and **1,217 families**.

★ INVESTING IN HEALTH AND HOUSING

Did you know that 80% of DC residents' health outcomes are driven by socioeconomic factors, such as lack of safe, quality housing?

INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF DEEPLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Partnership works to increase health equity and improve health outcomes for DC residents through its investments in the development and preservation of housing that is affordable to households with extremely low incomes, including Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). PSH is an evidence-based practice that combines permanent affordable housing with comprehensive support services for people who have experienced chronic homelessness.

In partnership with Enterprise Community Loan Fund, the Partnership offers an impact investing option for donors seeking to make a difference in the housing space.

To date, \$15.3 million has been invested through our partnership with Enterprise and through Jubilee Housing, which together have been leveraged to create and preserve over 500 homes affordable to low-income households.



PHOTO: EucKal Apartments, Jubilee Housing

LEVERAGING FEDERAL RESOURCES AND INVESTING IN SUPPORT SERVICES

In 2022, DC government launched a new Medicaid Benefit that could leverage millions of dollars in new federal resources each year for PSH services supporting people experiencing homelessness or with a history of chronic homelessness. In order to access these resources, PSH providers had to first make significant changes to the ways they have traditionally worked, implementing new policies and practices to successfully bill and provide services under the Medicaid model.

To ensure these providers had the support they needed to access these funds, we partnered with DC government and the Corporation for Supportive Housing to provide technical assistance and capacity-building grants directly to PSH providers. Ultimately, these investments will not only leverage millions of dollars in federal resources but increase the quality of services provided to people living in DC who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of returning to it.

Since the launch of the new Medicaid Benefit in DC, providers have been reimbursed a total of \$22 million for delivering housing supportive services to over 4,500 Medicaid beneficiaries.

★ SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS

To end homelessness, we must prioritize policies and solutions that are developed and led by people who are most directly impacted by homelessness and housing insecurity. Since 2019, the Partnership has awarded grants to community-based organizations and coalitions leading efforts to increase public investment and make our systems in DC more effective and efficient. These grants were made in memory of our beloved Leadership Council member Waldon Adams, a fierce advocate for ending homelessness. Waldon Adams and Rhonda Whitaker, also a major advocate, were both tragically killed in 2021 while taking a walk on a Saturday morning at Hains Point.

The Partnership has awarded over \$1 million in Waldon Adams Housing Justice grants to 11 community-based organizations and coalitions.



Over 30% of adults experiencing homelessness in DC are women. These women face significant health risks and are more likely to be victims of violence and assault while living unhoused. More targeted resources and supports for these women are needed.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

People for Fairness Coalition (PFFC), an organization made up of individuals who are currently or were formerly unhoused, received funding through the Waldon Adams Housing Justice grant program to launch the Rhonda Whitaker Streets to Life DC Women's Initiative and to partner with Serve Your City to advocate for policy changes to ensure all DC residents have the basic human right of decent housing. The Women's Initiative supports the participation of women with lived experience of homelessness at leadership tables throughout the city to bring greater attention to their unique challenges and to develop solutions.

PHOTO CREDIT: People for Fairness Coalition

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Miriam's Kitchen hosts The Way Home Campaign, a coalition of nearly 7,000 individuals and 110 organizations united in their commitment to solving chronic homelessness. Through their grant, Miriam's Kitchen has been able to elevate the voices and leadership of people experiencing homelessness to lead and inform their advocacy work.

PHOTO CREDIT: Miriam's Kitchen



Non-White youth experience homelessness at far greater rates than their White counterparts, making up 92% of literally homeless youth and 97% of unstably-housed youth. Nearly one-third of homeless youth identified as LGBTQ+.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The Youth Expo, an event focused on understanding challenges and needs of youth experiencing homelessness, received a grant from the Partnership to bring together youth to inform systems improvements. This information will be used by the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness to improve our community's response and identify targeted solutions.



The Partnership is committed to housing justice and to creating more equitable outcomes for our Black and Brown neighbors who are disproportionately impacted by homelessness and the lack of affordable housing. This year, we invested in two new reports that made recommendations for how to end chronic homelessness and prevent avoidable evictions for non-payment of rent.



PHOTO CREDIT: Rachelle Ellison, People for Fairness Coalition

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS BY PREVENTING EVICTIONS

Black people in DC are more likely to be renters, face an eviction filing, and be physically evicted from their homes. Since 2021, the Greater Washington Community Foundation and the DC Bar Foundation have co-convened the DC Eviction Prevention Co-Leaders Group to help expedite the distribution of emergency rental assistance, reduce the number of evictions, and increase overall housing stability. This group is facilitated by Urban Institute and has produced tangible results to prevent evictions in DC. These efforts have:

- Ensured the presence of housing counselors to support tenants in courtrooms during eviction hearings.
- Procured additional federal rental assistance for those at risk of eviction.
- Increased community outreach and door-to-door canvassing to reach tenants at risk of eviction and connect them with resources.

The work of this group led to the publication of *A Collaborative Framework for Eviction Prevention in DC* that outlines strategies to prevent evictions and recommendations for strengthening the system of supports available to tenants at risk of eviction.

WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN DC

Ending chronic homelessness is a key step in repairing one of the deepest harms of centuries of structural racism and discrimination.

The Partnership supported a research study by the DC Fiscal Policy Institute to determine what it will take to end chronic homelessness in DC, resulting in the landmark report: *Bringing it All Home: How DC Can Become the First Major City to End Chronic Homelessness and Provide Higher Quality Services*.

The report is grounded in the framework that interventions which explicitly address racism will be most successful when informed by Black and Brown residents with lived experience. The report is comprised of recommendations with direct input from, and the expertise of, individuals who have experienced homelessness and case workers on the ground.



★★★

Bringing it All Home: **How DC Can Become the First Major City to End Chronic Homelessness and Provide Higher-Quality Services**

Estimates of Cost to Reach "Functional Zero" and Evidence from DC-Based Focus Groups on Needed Service Improvements

By Kate Coventry



Hundreds of supporters and partners have joined us in this work.

To learn more about the Partnership, our investors, and community partners, and how to get involved, please contact Jennifer Olney at jolney@thecommunityfoundation.org or Silvana Straw at sstraw@thecommunityfoundation.org or visit us at endhomelessnessdc.org.

NONPROFIT GRANT RECIPIENTS

Community Solutions
Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
DC Action
DC Fiscal Policy Institute
DC Jobs with Justice
Educated Eats/Hook Hall Helps
Empower DC
Fair Budget Coalition
Friendship Place
Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND)
Housing Counseling Services
Jubilee Housing
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Miriam's Kitchen & The Way Home Campaign
ONE DC: Organizing Neighborhood Equity
Open Arms Housing
Pathways to Housing DC
People for Fairness Coalition
Serve Your City
SMYAL - Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders
The Urban Institute
Washington Legal Clinic for The Homeless

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Andrew Vincent, Horning Brothers***
Tonia Wellons, Greater Washington Community Foundation

** Former members who served in 2023

*** New members



1325 G STREET NW | SUITE 480 | WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-955-5890 | ENDDHOMELESSNESSDC.ORG