



THE NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND CAMPAIGN
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Background Information on Housing Trust Funds in the United States

- Housing trust funds are distinct funds established by cities, counties and states that permanently dedicate a source of public revenue to support the production and preservation of affordable housing.
- There are at least 257 housing trust funds in the United States. Thirty-six states have created these funds and the remainder are in cities and counties.
- More than \$500 million is spent for affordable housing through these trust funds every year and this amount is increasing. On average, for every \$1 committed to a housing project by a housing trust fund, another \$5-10 is leveraged in other public and private resources.
- Hundreds of thousands of housing units have been supported through housing trust funds.
- Housing trust funds support a variety of housing activities for low and very low income households, including new construction, preservation of existing housing, emergency repairs, homeless shelters, housing-related services, and capacity building for nonprofit organizations.
- At any given time, as many as fifty additional jurisdictions are considering the creation of a housing trust fund. These unique funds are a fundamental aspect of emerging housing policy in the United States.
- Housing trust funds have demonstrated that when government makes a commitment to address critical housing needs, the on-going dedicated source of revenue allows for more intelligent planning to address housing needs and for improved proposals submitted by the housing industry in an effort to effectively use existing resources.
- Housing trust funds enable jurisdictions to elevate their funding of critical housing needs by committing resources to a process that treats affordable housing as an essential component of maintaining healthy communities. Jurisdictions have documented increased jobs, growing sales taxes, higher property tax revenues, and many other economic benefits from the operation of their housing trust funds.
- For more information on affordable housing needs in your area, visit <http://www.nlihc.org/oor2003/> to go to NLIHC's *Out of Reach* report. For more information on housing trust funds, visit <http://www.communitychange.org/housing/trustfunds.htm> to go to the Housing Trust Fund Project at the Center for Community Change.

Prepared by the Housing Trust Fund Project of the Center for Community Change for the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign. For more information, please call the National Low Income Housing Coalition at (202) 662-1530.