

2022 *Legislative Agenda*

Board Approved: August 2022

The lack of affordable housing is a growing problem in our service area, in our state, and throughout much of the country. Although it is difficult to quantify this problem, we know that millions of Americans struggle to afford the basic costs of an adequate home, sometimes struggling just to pay rent. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated this situation by disproportionately affecting low- and moderate-income households. And yet, no single solution can solve this social ill. Both broad-based and targeted policies need to be enacted (and sometimes repealed) to enhance access to affordable housing and ultimately accomplish our vision in which everyone has a decent place to live.

In alignment with Habitat for Humanity International, the Florida Affiliate Support Office and affiliates across the country, our affiliate is working to meet established policy priorities and make a measurable impact in the lives of those we serve.

Our priorities for policy work will focus on all levels of government – federal, state, and local – and will be outlined below. We will focus our federal priorities on aligning with the national policy agenda of the HfHI and amplifying its message in our service area.

We also plan to prioritize state-level advocacy that aligns with both Florida's ASO statewide policies as well as policies that are relevant to our region. Finally, we believe we can have the greatest impact working with our local municipalities; therefore, we will concentrate most of our efforts on influencing local policy in those areas where it is needed most.

Recognizing that no single policy can solve our housing challenges, our policy priorities are organized into four categories of needed solutions:



Supply & Preservation



Access to Credit



Land Use



Communities of Opportunity

Local Priorities

Increase affordable housing supply:

This includes preserving existing affordable housing, and adding new units. To this end, we support policies that expand the supply of affordable housing options, including:

- Streamlining permitting processes and reducing fees for affordable housing construction
- Expanding public investments to meet the affordable housing need
- Increasing funding for public-private partnerships that build affordable homes for low-income families

Expanding homeownership:

We believe that practical solutions exist to expand homeownership opportunities for first-time homebuyers as well as current low-income homeowners. To this end, we support policies that help expand such opportunities, including:

- Creating affordable housing incentives.
- Increasing down payment assistance programs

Land Use:

We believe that the argument for reforming land use regulations is compelling, and the potential benefits to local communities could be immense. Land use policy has a huge impact on the availability and affordability of housing, and it's clear that we can do a better job of balancing the need for housing with other desirable community objectives.

- Lowering the cost of homebuilding and land use regulations.
- Increasing the supply of housing in urban areas where there is limited land to build on.
- Local zoning reform that allows more density in cities and suburbs;
- Streamlining rezoning and land use processes.

State Priorities

Local appropriation:

We are seeking a state level appropriation that will assist us in building more homes within our service area. We believe that we can secure this appropriation by working with our local legislative delegation to advocate for our cause and making it a priority for them.

Supporting Habitat Florida:

In chorus with our colleagues throughout the state, we will aim to have a greater impact and influence in Tallahassee. We will advocate for policies that support the growth of our organization and will also work to support specific legislative initiatives that will benefit affiliates and the families we all serve.

Federal Priorities

Cost of Home Campaign:

Habitat for Humanity International's five-year Cost of Home campaign is finding solutions and helping create policies that will allow access to affordable homes for 10 million individuals. We will utilize our local reputation, resource and influence to help support policies at the federal level to improve the lives of those we serve.