

Money for Your Mission

Virginia Housing provides grants for localities and organizations that are working to create or preserve affordable housing for Virginia's families, the homeless, seniors, people with disabilities, and people in high-growth or high-cost areas. We also have grants for first-time homebuyers, veterans and people in underserved rural areas.

Most Virginia Housing grants are funded by our REACH *Virginia* program. Each year, we contribute a significant portion of our net revenues into this program to make these grants possible.

For information about Virginia Housing grants, please contact us at Grants@VirginiaHousing.com.



"The Down Payment Assistance Grant was a real gift."
— Andrew, first-time homebuyer



"Without Virginia Housing's grant money, there's no way we could have pulled off such a comprehensive strategy and planning effort."
— Helen McIlvaine, Director of Housing, City of Alexandria



"Everyone has been excited. We have space for small and large groups [at the Danville Center for Housing Education], and attendance has been great — but if I help just one person, I feel it's been productive for me."
— Kimberly Walker, Director of Housing Education, The Center for Housing Education

GRANTS

Creating Funding Opportunities for Communities | Organizations | People



Community Impact Grants

Tackling a housing challenge often starts with activities that require funding. Virginia Housing's Community Impact Grant can help cover these costs, including:

- ▶ Market research.
- ▶ Design and engineering studies.
- ▶ Community outreach.
- ▶ Neighborhood community design.
- ▶ Mixed-use/mixed-income development planning.
- ▶ Other initiatives to provide housing and spur economic growth.

Example: The City of Alexandria faced losing two affordable rental communities due to an expiring federal subsidy contract. This could result in the properties being redeveloped, and families being priced out of their homes. To prevent that, the city needed to change its redevelopment and zoning guidelines.

A Community Impact Grant helped pay for market and housing development studies, a major planning session with stakeholders in the community, and more – laying the groundwork for the zoning changes and improving the housing environment.

Below-Market Predevelopment Loans

Funds from our REACH *Virginia* grant program enable us to offer extremely low interest rates on Virginia Housing predevelopment loans. These loans are used by:

- ▶ Public and nonprofit organizations seeking to develop and maintain quality, affordable rental housing.
- ▶ Housing organizations all over the state to help cover the cost of technical assistance and other needs that come up during the early planning stages of an affordable housing project.

Sponsoring Partnerships and Revitalizing Communities (SPARC)

SPARC helps localities working toward revitalization and neighborhood stabilization by providing funds for affordable Virginia Housing mortgages, to encourage first-time ownership in a designated area.

Event Sponsorship Grants

Virginia Housing has funds available to sponsor housing fairs, educational events and fundraising activities of charitable organizations and housing nonprofits.

Capacity Building Grants

The Virginia Housing Capacity Building Program supports the development and strengthening of the operations, processes and resources that organizations need to effectively ensure affordable housing in Virginia. Funding is provided to:

- ▶ Develop a strategic plan to establish outcomes for the organization by setting priorities, strengthening operations and ensuring staff and stakeholders are working toward common goals.
- ▶ Develop a succession management plan to identify and develop personnel who can replace key staff in the event it is necessary.
- ▶ Provide training and educational tools needed to ensure the organization is using best practices and current innovations in the areas of board development, financial soundness, fundraising, policy and procedure creation, program design, marketing, use of technology and volunteer and community engagement.

Example: HomeAgain in Richmond used a Capacity Building Grant to improve board development. Their board meetings are now more efficient and impactful. Members are engaged and learning more about the organization, its work and their role in furthering the mission. Overall, they are better equipped to serve as ambassadors and make decisions for HomeAgain.

Housing Counseling & Education Grants

These grants provide Virginia Housing and federal funding to HUD-approved housing counseling programs to educate families and individuals, helping them to:

- ▶ Make smart decisions about their finances and housing options.
- ▶ Improve their housing situation.
- ▶ Meet the responsibilities of renting or owning a home.

Example: The Center for Housing Education, a branch of the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority, is a HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency. The Center connects with the community to provide programs that promote education and wealth preservation. Their goal is to create educational opportunities that prepare individuals for new challenges as they transition along the affordable housing spectrum, while instilling the values of property maintenance, which is so important for community stability and sustainability.

Danville RHA leverages federal housing counseling funds administered by Virginia Housing along with Virginia Housing's housing counseling and education funds to support the services offered at the center.



Rental Unit Accessibility Modification Grants

These grants provide funds to make rental housing more accessible. The money can help pay for ramps, grab bars and more.

Example: Daniel Meeks, a lifelong resident of Albemarle County, has a physical disability that makes it difficult for him to step into and out of his tub/shower. He says that a lack of cartilage in his right knee made it dangerous for him to lift his leg enough to climb into the tub. Thanks to funds from a grant provided by Virginia Housing's Rental Unit Accessibility Modification Program (RUAM), coupled with the help of local Virginia Housing partners, he was able to have the tub in his apartment replaced with a walk-in shower. Now, Daniel can enjoy longer showers without worrying about risking injury. He says that all of the entities involved in the project were extremely professional and helpful, and did an amazing job!

Granting Freedom

Granting Freedom pays for modifications to rental or owned homes, for eligible Virginia veterans with service-related disabilities.

Down Payment Assistance Grants

For many first-time homebuyers, coming up with a down payment is a major hurdle. For qualified first-time homebuyers, this Virginia Housing grant could be the solution.

Closing Cost Assistance Grants

These grants are available for qualified veterans and rural residents.

