

Seattle Housing Levy

for an equitable and
affordable city



In 2009, Seattle voters approved, for the fifth time, property taxes dedicated to affordable housing for low-income residents. The current Seattle Housing Levy runs through 2016.

The \$145 million Seattle Housing Levy funds affordable housing development, rental assistance to prevent homelessness, and support for first-time homebuyers.

“The Seattle Housing Levy has and will make home a reality for thousands of families.”

-Mayor Ed Murray

A Solution to Homelessness



Everyone should have the opportunity to live in a safe, affordable home.



Invests in innovative supportive housing models, like Housing First, that serve the most vulnerable people in our city.



Prevents eviction and homelessness by providing short-term rental assistance to families and individuals.

Housing for Working People



Modest wage workers should be able to live in the city where they work.



Builds a more economically and racially equitable city by investing in affordable rental housing.



Provides housing opportunities near transit to connect workers to jobs and reduce household costs.

A Strong Community for All



Affordable housing is a cornerstone of a safe, healthy, and equitable community.



Preserves existing affordable housing to create stability for neighborhoods and people at risk of displacement.



Provides down-payment assistance to help low-income people to purchase a home and establish roots in Seattle.

2009 Seattle Housing Levy

Fulfilling a Promise to Voters

In 2009 Seattle voters invested in their community by funding affordable housing. With two years left in the 7-year Housing Levy, we have exceeded our goals for developing and preserving rental housing and are on track to meet goals for support to first-time homebuyers and families in need of rental assistance.



1,971 new apartments built, kept affordable for 50 years

1,882 households received rental assistance to prevent homelessness

148 first-time homebuyers now have their own house

410 existing homes preserved through improvements

Making Sound Investments



Housing Levy capital funds are leveraged three to one, bringing other public, philanthropic, and private resources for affordable housing to our community.



Homes funded by the Housing Levy are built to Evergreen Green Building Standards and regulated for 50 years or more to remain safe, efficient, and affordable for generations.



Public investments from the Housing Levy stimulate our local economy by creating jobs in construction and management and generating ongoing local tax revenues.

Nyer Urness House
80 homes for homeless individuals



Gutierrez Kenney Place
54 homes for families

Williams Apartments
81 homes for homeless individuals

12th Ave Arts
88 homes for low-income workers



Garcia Family Home



Columbia City Station
52 homes for families near light rail

Levy Projects

- Rental Housing
- Homeownership