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
410 existing homes preserved through improvements

1,882 households received rental assistance to prevent homelessness
148 first-time homebuyers now have their own house

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.

 Levy Projects
- 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: 52 homes for families near light rail
- Columbia City Station: 52 homes for families near light rail

Seattle.gov/housing/levy