



First Name

Last Name

Email

Signup

HOME

OUR PROJECT

HOUSING TRUST
FUNDS

HTF ELEMENTS

CAMPAIGNS

NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATIONS AND
RESOURCES

CONTACT

HOME

CATEGORY

ISSUE

STATE

SHARE THIS NEWS

Minneapolis Approves More than \$40 Million for Affordable Housing for 2019 Budget

by Katy Heins // 2019, Winter



Make Homes Happen coalition members deliver postcards to Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey

Minneapolis' 2019 budget process started with Mayor Jacob Frey announcing a pledge of at least \$40 million in the city budget for affordable homes. Advocates with Make Homes Happen Minneapolis (MHH) have been campaigning for several years to increase and dedicate funding for affordable housing. This year they are celebrating the historic investment in affordable housing that Minneapolis city council passed and the mayor signed in early December 2018.

The budget directs slightly more than \$40 million toward addressing the city's affordable housing crisis, an amount Mayor Jacob Frey said was triple the previous record. Included in the \$40 million allocation is more than \$21 million for the city's Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF). The budget also funds new supports for renters, including a pilot program that aims to get more renters facing eviction legal representation in housing court, and adds dollars to a revolving-loan fund used to rehabilitate rental properties.

The 2019 funding is a one-time infusion into housing programs in Minneapolis. When the Affordable Housing Trust Fund was established in 2002, there was a goal of \$10 million a year in annual funding. However, only a handful of times was that goal met. The AHTF was funded by just over \$8 million and \$6.5 million in 2017 and 2018 respectively. In addition, the past funding includes both local city money and federal pass through dollars. The 2019 budget has an additional \$16 million in funds from TIF for

Affordable Housing going into the AHTF as well as the traditional federal pass through funds for a total of \$21 million.

MHH paved the road for this victory during the 2017 election season by making affordable housing a priority during the elections. Members hosted candidates forums focused on affordable housing in most wards as well one for the mayoral candidates. Keeping up the pressure, in April 2018 MHH held an event to kick-off their advocacy efforts to increase affordable housing funding to a dedicated revenue of \$50 million a year. Due to the strong work during the elections, council members and representatives from the new Mayor's office also attended the event.

Ratcheting up the pressure, MHH started a postcard campaign aimed at the Mayor. In August, MHH delivered the **hundreds of postcards** they collected from constituents across Minneapolis who wrote to Mayor Frey in support of \$50 million to ensure that everyone in Minneapolis has a safe, stable and affordable place to call home. At the August 6th budget address where Mayor Frey pledged \$40 million in the city budget for affordable housing, he said, *"The cards behind me were delivered by Make Homes Happen, a coalition of housing advocates from around the Twin Cities. Each represents a personal story from someone in Minneapolis, making their case for real investment in housing."*

Make Homes Happen reacted to the Mayor's initial proposal to invest \$40 million in affordable homes: *The Mayor's proposal is a great start to seriously addressing our city's housing crisis, especially considering that one-fifth of the City's residents are cost-burdened renters, and over 8% of Minneapolis Public Schools students experienced homelessness during the 2016-17 school year. Community members have told us they want to live in a city in where all residents can afford their home, and have meaningful choices in where they live.*



MHH continued to keep up the pressure throughout the summer and fall by collecting more postcards to the mayor and city council, educating council members and the broader community on the need for affordable homes for all.

In November, in the final stretch, Make Homes Happen members testified at two of the Minneapolis City Council 2019 budget hearings to show continued support for the Mayor's proposed investments in affordable housing. The advocacy paid off with a council vote of 12 to 1 for the budget. When Mayor Frey signed the budget in a City Hall conference room packed with housing advocates from the Make Homes Happen coalition, he said Minneapolis was *"poised to lead the nation in housing support."* He further said to coalition members, *"It was your advocacy; it was your hard work during this budget process that made today possible,"*

Rose Teng, Public Policy Director at Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers said about the campaign, *"One of our goals as a coalition was to carry the momentum from the 2017 mayoral and city council elections into the next budget cycle and to keep the pressure on affordable housing as a top priority issue. We were able to maintain visibility on our policy agenda and were successful in advocating for a record investment in affordable housing in our community. At the same time, our work has also been focused on the affordable housing needs outside of the annual budget cycle and we continue to advocate for a dedicated, sustainable, revenue fund that would result in affordable housing production, preservation of existing housing, and protection of tenants' rights."*

According to the city, the AHTF is a critical catalyst for promoting community revitalization and reinvestments. The funds provided by the AHTF create a 1:9 ratio where every \$1 of AHTF attracts, on average, \$9 of additional investment in that project. The AHTF Program provides gap financing for affordable and mixed-income rental housing, housing production and preservation projects. The

purpose of this program is to finance the production and preservation/stabilization of affordable and mixed-income rental housing projects in Minneapolis. Program funds are offered through an annual competitive RFP process.

Make Homes Happen is a coalition of 42 organizations advocating for affordable housing development, preservation, and the improvement of tenant rights in Minneapolis through education, advocacy, and public policy reform. The campaign will continue to advocate for a dedicated source of funding for affordable housing production and preservation.

For more information please contact Rose Teng, Public Policy Director at Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, by phone 612-843-3270 or email to [rteng\(@\)mccdmn.org](mailto:rteng(@)mccdmn.org)



PREVIOUS

Cincinnati Establishes and Capitalizes an Affordable Housing Trust Fund

NEXT

State Enabling Legislation Helps Build Local Housing Capacity in Minnesota, Washington



MORE FROM CURRENT ISSUE



Minneapolis Approves More than \$40 Million for Affordable Housing for 2019 Budget



Cincinnati Establishes and Capitalizes an Affordable Housing Trust Fund



Momentum for Housing Trust Fund in Hillsborough County Florida Grows

Copyright © 2011-2023 Housing Trust Fund Project. All rights reserved.