



Calgary
Affordable Housing
Foundation

Ready to Launch

Calgary Affordable Housing Foundation: One solution to affordable housing crisis

The Cause

CAHF is one part of the solution to address the affordable housing crisis in Calgary. According to the City of Calgary's 2023 Housing Needs Assessment, there were 84,600 households in housing need. This means that one in five Calgary households cannot afford their housing. Currently, there are approximately 300 affordable housing units being built each year, but the demand is far greater. Calgary needs approximately 2,500 additional affordable housing units each year to meet the growing need.

Our organization offers a strategic solution to support housing providers raise the required philanthropic capital dollars for below-market affordable housing. The foundation is a capacity building organization that will link the more than 50 affordable housing charities in Calgary with donor support.

The Solution

Calgary Affordable Housing Foundation offers a strategic solution to support housing providers, raise required philanthropic capital dollars, and ensure Calgarians have access to below-market affordable housing. The foundation is a capacity building organization that will accelerate building of units, support the more than 50 affordable housing charities in Calgary, and amplify donor support.

CAHF is the go-to fundraiser for affordable housing in Calgary. CAHF connects donors and funding agencies with housing providers. This connection and support allow housing providers to leverage available government funding, resulting in accelerated builds and more below-market affordable housing units for Calgarians.

CAHF is focused on below-market housing for the homeless, people with disabilities, indigenous people, the working poor, and other equity-deserving/seeking groups. CAHF has equity, diversity and inclusion as an integral element of its vision and mandate.



The Vision

Everyone in Calgary has a place to call home.

The Mission

Innovating through partnership to redefine how investments are made in affordable housing to collectively address the scale of Calgary's affordable housing challenge.

CAHF aspires to raise \$10 million annually within 5 years for capital projects. This \$10 million is projected to leverage about \$100 million for below-market affordable housing funding and the building of approximately 333 units annually (assuming an average cost of \$300,000 per unit).

The Context

CAHF aligns with the City of Calgary's Housing Strategy and the Housing and Affordability Task Force, which reference the need for an organization such as CAHF to help housing providers attract philanthropic capital. For the past several years, CAHF has been connecting with housing providers, community partners and organizations involved in the affordable housing sector. CAHF is now reaching out to donors and community organizations to solidify funds to launch operations.

Once formally in operation, CAHF will select projects through an application process in which not-for-profit housing providers present their specific, shovel-ready, below-market housing projects to be approved as a fundraising priority for CAHF. CAHF then raises funds, which are made available to the housing provider, allowing those organizations to leverage government funding and build.

The History and Community Support

CAHF was formed when leaders from five agencies involved in the RESOLVE Campaign realized that there was a significant and ongoing need to seek financial support for affordable housing.

Beginning in 2018, this group met regularly to explore the structure and focus. Over the past couple of years, engagement has taken place with federal, provincial and municipal governments, and there has been extensive consultation with not-for-profit housing providers and community stakeholders to refine the CAHF vision and operating model.

CAHF has garnered strong support from the community and all levels of government. Funding for CAHF to date has come from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Government of Alberta, in addition to the Calgary Foundation. The City of Calgary's, "Home is Here" housing strategy, and the associated housing task force recommendations speak specifically of the need for an organization (like CAHF) to address the gap around raising philanthropic capital for affordable housing projects. This will help housing providers focus on what they do best – build and operate affordable housing.

CAHF is registered as a public foundation and is a registered charity in Canada. CAHF is governed by a volunteer Board of Calgarians committed to helping all Calgarians have a place to call home. CAHF board members are:

David McElhanney (Chair)
Susan Mullie
Ryan Scott
Matthew Burns

Stephanie Felesky
Cheryl Hamelin
Shaun Jones

Founding Donor donation levels

Groundbreakers \$500,000

Groundbreakers are a special group of maximum three donors who are instrumental in launching CAHF operations. Groundbreakers who contribute to initial launch funding will be recognized in perpetuity. Groundbreakers will be acknowledged in premium placement on communication and marketing materials, including the CAHF website, launch materials, social media, brochures and presentations.

Developers \$250,000

Developers are instrumental donors who contribute to initial launch funding. Developers will be recognized in perpetuity. Developers will be acknowledged in communication and marketing materials, including the CAHF website, launch materials, social media, brochures and presentations.

Builders \$100,000

Builders are valued donors who contribute to initial launch funding. Builders will be recognized in perpetuity. Builders will be acknowledged in communication and marketing materials, including the CAHF website, launch materials, social media, brochures and presentations.

Partners \$50,000

Partners are critical donors who contribute to initial launch funding. Partners who contribute to initial launch funding will be recognized in perpetuity. Partners will be acknowledged in communication and marketing materials, including the CAHF website, launch materials, social media, brochures and presentations.

Contributions for all founding donors may be in one payment or in multi-year instalments.

CAHF is seeking to confirm \$2.5 million of initial launch funding. This funding will be used to fully operationalize the foundation and to immediately support affordable housing providers.