



**HOUSING
ALASKANS**
A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

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Wells Fargo grants \$200,000 to Housing Alaskans: A Public-Private Partnership to expand housing in rural communities

ANCHORAGE, AK – Today, [Housing Alaskans: A Public-Private Partnership](#) announced a \$200,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation to accelerate housing developments in rural Alaska hub communities where the workforce and families struggle to find housing. The generous investment will help alleviate Alaska’s critical housing shortage.

“Alaska is experiencing a housing crisis that significantly impacts communities, families, and our neighbors. The Wells Fargo Foundation wants to help ameliorate the housing shortage. Since no single funder acting alone can make a sizeable impact on such a large issue, Wells Fargo is investing in Housing Alaskans to leverage our funding with other funders to increase our reach and impact more broadly throughout Alaska,” **said Sam Mazzeo, Wells Fargo’s Alaska Commercial Banking Leader.**

“Wells Fargo’s generous and strategic investment in Housing Alaskans accelerates much-needed housing development and furthers rural Alaska communities’ housing priorities,” **said Housing Alaskans Board Chair Shauna Hegna.** “We’re honored and grateful to partner with Wells Fargo to fulfill Housing Alaskans’ commitment to innovative, nimble approaches to increase the housing stock and support families and local economies throughout rural Alaska.”

Housing Alaskans offers “top-off” grants and technical support to developers and communities to help increase Alaska’s housing stock and provides direct resources to build and rehabilitate housing. “Housing Alaskans very intentionally coordinates its resources with those of other funding sources so that housing can come online more quickly and efficiently,” **said Board Chair Hegna.**

Most housing projects are financially complicated, requiring dozens of different funding sources. It often takes years and considerable staff time to maneuver through the various application processes to raise the full capital needed to launch or complete a housing project. Many projects languish for years, lacking the final necessary funding. For that reason, dozens of housing projects representing hundreds of prospective units are stalled in Alaska.

“Housing Alaskans’ top-off grants and community support help break that logjam by multiplying the impact of numerous disparate funders and reducing a cumbersome process that makes it so challenging for developers to complete projects. Wells Fargo is pleased to provide additional funds to increase the housing inventory affordable to middle and low-income Alaskans,” **said Mazzeo.**

For example, the Nome Community Center (NCC) received a Housing Alaskans grant to complete a 15-unit apartment to house Nome’s most vulnerable. “We could not have completed our project without Housing Alaskans’ grant, which helped to leverage over 20 funders to finish [HomePlate Nome](#),” **said NCC Executive Director Kimberly Bishop.** “Thanks to Housing Alaskans’ streamlined grant application and funding, Nome is now housing fifteen of its most chronically unhoused individuals. Investment in innovative approaches to addressing our housing crisis is most welcomed and appreciated.”

The Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) is Housing Alaskans' fiscal sponsor. "ACF is proud to incubate Housing Alaskans and serve as a platform for ambitious coalition work to address Alaska's housing crisis," **said Alex McKay, CEO and President of The Alaska Community Foundation.**

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About Housing Alaskans: A Public-Private Partnership

Housing Alaskans was formed to address Alaska's housing crisis by using creative funding solutions to accelerate an increase in the housing inventory. Housing Alaskans partners with other funders to address Alaska's housing challenges: housing affordability, housing development, and aging housing stock. Funds support the state's most urgent and timely housing projects through a competitive grant process overseen by a diverse board of Alaska leaders and a technical Advisory Committee of housing experts.

Housing Alaskans' innovative model is fiscally sponsored by The Alaska Community Foundation. ACF leverages its expertise as a responsible manager of public funds to support innovative coalition work and strategic public-private partnerships.