



# BEAUFORT JASPER HOUSING TRUST

April 2024 Newsletter

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The Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust is dedicated to transforming communities in Beaufort and Jasper counties and improving lives through the expansion and preservation of affordable and workforce housing. As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of housing needs, our mission remains steadfast: to create more opportunities for individuals and families to access safe, quality housing that they can truly call home.

In this issue, we are excited to share many announcements: a new Executive Director, a new website, programming update on our RFP's and another new Board member.

Exciting things are happening at BJHT and we're so happy you remain informed of our progress via this monthly newsletter!

## **Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust hires First Executive Director Claude Hicks**



As a dedicated advocate for affordable housing, Claude Hicks has dedicated the lion's share of his professional journey to the development, construction, preservation, and acquisition of affordable housing. With a steadfast commitment to ensuring families and seniors have access to safe and affordable homes, Claude's impact has been felt across a vast 10-state footprint,

primarily in the mid-Atlantic and southeast regions of the United States.

Throughout his career, Claude has been instrumental in leading the development of over 250 affordable communities, contributing to the creation of more than 15,000 housing units. His endeavors have not only transformed communities but have also generated an impressive \$1 billion in syndication equity, illustrating his proficiency in both social impact and financial acumen.

Born into a family with deep roots outside Charleston, South Carolina, Claude draws inspiration from his upbringing. He is a proud graduate of Southern Illinois University and Victor Valley College. Claude served his country as a distinguished veteran of the United States Air Force.

Claude shares a loving partnership with his wife, Shawn, and together they nurture a family of five children. Additionally, Claude and Shawn's compassionate spirit extends to their furry family members, as they care for three special needs dogs.

Claude Hicks's professional accomplishments and personal values intertwine seamlessly, reflecting a profound dedication to making a lasting difference in the lives of others, one affordable home at a time.

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## Website Launch

Copies of our newsletters, current RFP's and other news is available there and will continue to be updated!

Visit our  
Website

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## Programs Update

The initial BJHT Requests for Proposals (RFPs) concluded on March 28, 2024. BJHT received 15 applications from a variety of for-profit and non-profit organizations.

Collectively, the requests would create 100 new affordable rental homes, repair 98 owner occupied homes, and help 42 households purchase their first homes.

BJHT has made available \$1,600,000 for this round of funding and the requests exceed the available funding. In the coming weeks, a selection committee will review the proposals and decisions will be announced by June 1, 2024.

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**New Board Member**  
Caitlin Reid, Levin Fisher  
Gilley & Reid, LLC



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# Did You Know?

## Median Rents in March 2024\*

South Carolina	\$1,820.00
Beaufort	\$2,300.00
Port Royal	\$2,400.00
Yemassee	\$1,500.00
Hilton Head	\$3,500.00
Bluffton	\$2,600.00
Hardeeville	\$2,600.00

\*information obtained from Zillow



SC Housing has programs for homebuyers that operate throughout the year. Check back often to find out more about new and returning programs for homebuyers.

Homebuyer Information from SC  
Housing

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Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter!

Each month we will highlight success stories, showcase upcoming projects, and explore the diverse ways in which the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust is making a meaningful difference. Together, we can build stronger, more resilient communities where housing is not just a necessity but a cornerstone for a brighter future. Thank you for your continued support as we work towards a more equitable and accessible housing landscape for all.

(843) 279-2446

[www.bjht.org](http://www.bjht.org)

Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust | 1211 Newcastle Street, Suite D, Beaufort, SC 29902 843-279-2446

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