I am Davin Armstrong, a Political Science Major, and Air Force ROTC Cadet at Howard University, and I'm sending this email to discuss the significance of affordable housing and outline their plans to address this issue.

I’m applying for this scholarship not just because I care about affordable housing, but because I look forward to my life to being part of the solution. My dream is to own property and develop buildings in communities while I continue my fulltime career as a corporate lawyer, not just to provide something to call home but to offer a springboard for future homeowners. I want to create accessible rental spaces that prepare tenants residents for ownership. My plan is to go beyond the traditional landlord role. I aim to become a community partner who helps tenants transition from renters to owners through financial education like I wish to go through and homebuyer assistance programs.

To me, affordable housing is not just about cheaper rent, it’s about stability, dignity, and opportunity. It’s about creating conditions where families can thrive, kids can stay in one school year after year, and neighborhoods don’t disappear when development arrives. I want to be the kind of property owner who invests in people, not just the property.

I plan to achieve this by combining entrepreneurship with policy. I’m currently studying political science and involved in clubs at my college that focus on public service, civic leadership, and Pre-law clubs. These spaces allow me to learn more about legislation and laws which also can be used for housing. Long-term, I intend to pursue further education in corporate law and eventually congress so I can navigate both the business and policy sides of this issue effectively. I believe that true change happens at the intersection of ownership.

My vision includes buying multi-family homes in historically Black neighborhoods like parts of Chicago and of Atlantan that are often overlooked or targeted for gentrification. Instead of flipping these properties for profit, I want to restore them and offer affordable leases with built-in paths toward ownership. I want to help tenants not just live, but grow, save, and eventually buy.

What drives me is the belief that everyone deserves a fair shot at homeownership and the stability it brings. In the Black community, decades of redlining, discriminatory lending practices, and systemic displacement have stripped families of wealth and opportunity. I want to be part of reversing that. I want to see families able to pass down properties instead of debt. To watch young people, grow up in neighborhoods where they feel safe and valued, and to help rebuild the trust that many communities have lost in the systems that was meant to serve them.

This scholarship would allow me to keep pushing forward toward that vision. It’s not just financial support—it’s an investment in someone who plans to reinvest tenfold into the communities that need it most. I’m not chasing wealth for myself. I’m chasing equity, dignity, and generational progress.

One day, I hope people will drive by a row of homes and say, “He built that.” Not just the buildings, but the hope behind them. The chance to stay, to thrive, and to finally own a piece of the future.