Year One of Local Housing Solutions

One year ago, the Furman Center and Abt Associates launched Local Housing Solutions (LHS), an online, interactive tool to help communities develop strategies that promote housing affordability. LHS has accomplished so much over the past 12 months – here are just a few of the highlights.

Our Audience

LHS has cultivated an international audience with a wide reach — the site attracts over 2,000 unique visitors a month. We view this interest as strong evidence of the demand among local governments, citizens, and stakeholders for guidance and technical assistance in developing local housing strategies that can help relieve pressure on prices and rents.

Hover over the map below to check out some of our national traffic.

Local Housing Solutions Traffic by Metro Area
Our Sponsors
We are incredibly grateful for the support of several foundations and consortiums in building and maintaining this important resource. Early on, the Ford Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation saw the value and potential of spurring local action that could improve affordability and equity. More recently, LHS has been sustained through generous funding from the Kresge Foundation and the JP Morgan Chase Foundation.

Our Launch Event
Shortly after launch, the Neighborhood Funders Group co-sponsored a thought-provoking event at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice, “Empowering Localities to Address Their Affordable Housing Challenges.” We also received valuable assistance in planning the event from Funders for Housing and Opportunity.

Watch a summary video of the first panel discussion below, or watch the whole event.

Our Institute
Just this past September, we were pleased to host the first Local Housing Solutions Institute (LHSI), a four-day intensive program of seminars, strategic consultation, and teambuilding designed to help a select group of localities better address the affordability and other local housing challenges.

Our first cohort consisted of senior officials from key housing and other agencies from Atlanta, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, and San Antonio. The LHSI was funded by the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation.
Our Future

The mission of LHS is to provide resources that help cities, towns and counties develop comprehensive and balanced local housing strategies that enhance affordability. As such, we are constantly adding to and improving the content of our site to best fit the needs of users, like you. We encourage you to send us feedback to shape the future content and development of this site.

Thank you all for a wonderful year of Local Housing Solutions. We look forward to continuing to learn from you and to providing what we hope are valuable affordable housing resources, tools, and insights for many more years to come!