

Housing Futures Center

Advancing a Future with Housing for All

Our Vision

The Housing Futures Center (HFC) at the University of Washington is a bold, forward-looking initiative designed to address Washington's most pressing housing challenges—both today and in the years ahead. With a mission to build capacity and advance informed decision-making, HFC integrates education, research, and community engagement to support policymakers, advocates, developers, housing providers, tenants, and homeowners to shape a future where every Washingtonian has access to housing.

Motivation

Housing in Washington is increasingly out of reach. We do not have enough homes—and the homes we do have are among the most expensive in the country. Over the next two decades, Washington will need more than 1.1 million new housing units of all types and many of these units will need to be affordable to households earning less than 80% of the area median income.

Washington and the millions of people who call it home cannot risk leaving this crisis unaddressed. The consequences of unattainable housing are severe, including increased financial instability, eviction, displacement, and homelessness. These consequences disproportionately affect low-income families, households of color, and, increasingly, older adults. At a broader level, for our state, counties, and cities, unaffordable housing can limit economic growth and place significant burdens on governments.

Approach

Solving the scale and complexity of Washington's housing challenges requires coordinated, informed, and sustained action. The HFC focuses on, and underscores the importance of all types of housing, including supportive, market rate, workforce, and subsidized. Research, engagement, and education will also consider the role of diverse and innovative housing solutions for both renters and owners. The Housing Futures Center meets this need by advancing three interconnected strategies: **research, education and engagement.**



Yesler Terrace Multi-Family Housing in Seattle.

Research

Addressing our complex housing needs necessitates informed decision-making. The HFC conducts applied, relevant research in Washington and maintains accessible data resources that policymakers, community advocates, developers, researchers, and agencies can use to support their housing-related decision-making. This includes generating insights into housing supply, access and affordability, policy and regulation, and innovation in development and construction—equipping stakeholders with the evidence needed to design effective programs, policies, and interventions. We also seek to be a source of housing-related data to highlight important housing trends in real-time and provide the housing ecosystem with actionable insights to inform decisions and drive solutions.

- ▶ Policy and program evaluation
- ▶ Data assembly and dissemination
- ▶ Policy analysis
- ▶ Development feasibility analysis
- ▶ Case study analysis (policy, development, regulatory)
- ▶ Landscape analysis

Education

Building the future of housing requires a new generation of housing practitioners. The HFC develops the next generation of housers—policymakers, advocates, financiers, housing providers, researchers, and developers—through a range of educational offerings. These include:

- ▶ Coursework rooted in housing systems, policies, and production
- ▶ Real-world learning and experience via case competitions and applied research projects
- ▶ Financial support for housing-related internships and fellowships
- ▶ Access to mentors and industry leaders through lectures and community gatherings



Rolling farm landscape in the Palouse region of Washington State.



Row of new townhouses in downtown Spokane, Washington.

Engagement

Complex problems require diverse perspectives. The HFC convenes policymakers, developers, advocates, residents, and civic leaders in communities across the state in solution-focused conversations across sectors. Through structured discussion and collaboration, the HFC creates the conditions for shared problem-solving by fostering mutual understanding, highlighting promising practices, and supporting collaborative action across conventional divides toward shared housing goals.

Shared Goals

Aligned with state and local priorities, the HFC does not construct housing or establish housing policy. It works to support and inform those who do. Our work is designed to advance the following shared goals:

- ▶ Housing attainability, affordability, & stability
- ▶ Thriving communities
- ▶ Informed decision-making
- ▶ Shared prosperity

Our Values

The Housing Futures Center operates with intention and integrity, guided by values that ensure our work is responsive, rigorous, and rooted in the needs of our state. We are:

- ▶ **Pragmatic**—We focus on real-world impact by building capacity to help partners make wise decisions and implement effective solutions.
- ▶ **Conscientious**—We approach every project with integrity, rigor, and a commitment to equity.
- ▶ **Humble**—We recognize that no single approach will solve Washington's housing crisis and that meaningful expertise exists within the communities we serve. With openness and a spirit of collaboration, we elevate the best ideas, regardless of their source.

The University of Washington as a Partner

As a leading public research university committed to serving the people of our state, the University of Washington brings deep interdisciplinary expertise, robust industry, public, and non-profit partnerships, and a longstanding commitment to community engagement.

Together, we are building a hub where knowledge and connection produce action.



Newport Shores neighborhood along Lake Washington in Bellevue.

Contact

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