

Partnership to End Homelessness Leadership Council

Partnership to End Homelessness — Vision and Goals

Washington, DC is a prosperous, vibrant place to live. Yet, stable housing remains out of reach for far too many people. Our region's rising housing costs continue to outpace local incomes. The shortage of affordable housing is preventing many of our neighbors from participating in the region's economic growth.

Many of us know someone—a cousin who unexpectedly lost a job, a friend who is a survivor of domestic violence, an employee with escalating healthcare costs—who is teetering on an edge so thin that any unforeseen event, expense, or challenge can result in homelessness. This can have devastating effects on their health, job security, academic performance, and family stability.

Homelessness is both preventable and solvable and we know that the solution is housing. The District has made significant investments in strategies and is making real progress. But there is still more work to be done and local government cannot do it alone. **We believe there is an opportunity to capitalize on the city's momentum by engaging committed, private-sector leadership to help ensure all DC residents have a safe, stable place to call home.**

In 2019, the Greater Washington Community Foundation teamed up with the District's Interagency Council on Homelessness to launch the public-private Partnership to End Homelessness in DC (the "Partnership"). The Partnership's goal is to help ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring in DC with an emphasis on bringing private sector leadership to the table to achieve the following goals, with a focus on racial equity, housing justice, and community-led solutions:

- Increase the supply of affordable housing with a priority on extremely low-income households
- Build nonprofit capacity to help single adults, families, and youth exit homelessness as quickly as possible
- Change perceptions about homelessness and affordable housing through donor education, community engagement, and advocacy efforts
- Leverage private philanthropy and align with public resources and strategies, leading to more nimble, strategic, and sustained investment in the homeless services system and housing for extremely low-income households

The background, vision and mission, and funding strategies are described further on the Partnership's website at endhomelessnessdc.org.

Leadership Council

Creating lasting social change, ensuring the long-term health and vibrancy of the city, and creating an equitable and thriving community where all of our neighbors have a safe and stable place to call home will require partnership — and *leadership* — from business, philanthropy, and private individuals working in partnership with government, advocates, practitioners and people with lived experience.

Financial investment from the private sector in helping solve homelessness and affordable housing issues is important — but equally important is the leadership that business and other private-sector stakeholders can bring to the table. We need the private sector to invest its considerable brainpower, influence, and resources in helping our city solve this complex problem.

The Leadership Council has three primary objectives:

- Engage private-sector stakeholders and networks in work to end homelessness and increase housing stability in DC.
- Provide financial investment and other resources to support the strategic priorities of the Partnership to End Homelessness.
- Participate in budget advocacy, policy advocacy, and public narrative change efforts using personal and professional networks.

Members of the Leadership Council will be asked to make the following commitments:

- Attend two Leadership Council Meetings each year
- Join a Leadership Council working group that aligns with your interests and skills
- Advocate for the Partnership's priorities with elected officials and other stakeholders
- Participate in the Partnership's media and communications efforts
- Identify and solicit financial support for the work of the Partnership

Leadership Council Membership and Recruitment

In 2020, we launched the initial cohort of the Partnership's Leadership Council with representatives from across sectors. Members came from a diverse array of businesses, philanthropy, and nonprofits including The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, Citi, Horning Brothers, Howard University, Kaiser Permanente, and the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Together we have leveraged and aligned over \$14 million in private sector resources aimed at increasing the supply of deeply affordable housing and ending homelessness. Members have also advocated around the DC budget in partnership with community members, securing hundreds of millions of dollars in public sector resources and over 400 permanent supportive housing vouchers to end homelessness for 2,956 individuals and 1,137 families.

As the initial members come to the end of their terms, we are looking to our partners and networks to ask for your help in recruiting key stakeholders to join The Partnership to End Homelessness Leadership Council ("Leadership Council").

Successful candidates will have one or more of the following qualities:

- A passion for ending homelessness and housing justice
- An ability to identify and secure financial resources and partnerships to advance the work of the Partnership
- Experience advocating with the DC Council or other public sector representatives
- A strong commitment to racial equity
- An openness to other people's ideas and new ways of thinking
- An ability to commit to meeting attendance and workgroup participation
- An ability to work constructively with representatives from many different interest groups, including nonprofits, businesses, and government, in order to advance the Partnership's goals

We are specifically interested in engaging representatives from the private sector that are key stakeholders in the issues of homelessness and affordable housing in DC. Each sector has unique resources and networks that can be mobilized to support the aims of the Partnership. Examples include:

- Hospitals and Healthcare
- Hospitality
- Universities and Think tanks
- BIDs
- Landlords and Property Management Firms
- Legal Firms
- Local and national housing experts working in DC
- Local business leaders who have a personal experience with housing instability and homelessness
- Other Corporate Stakeholders

We are particularly interested in welcoming those who identify as members of groups who experience homelessness at disproportionate rates in D.C., including Black and African-American candidates, LGBTQ+ candidates, senior citizens, and young adults.

If you know someone who can help lead our work to end homelessness and increase the supply of deeply affordable housing in DC [please complete this short form by February 28, 2023](#).

Nominations will be reviewed on a rolling basis and we may reach out to ask for additional information.

