

Tell Congress that greater action is needed for housing stability and nonprofit support

As Congress deliberates the next COVID-19 relief package, we need to ensure that it includes further support for housing affordability and resources for nonprofits like Habitat Wake, which are serving our community. Please email your Senators to urge them to prioritize these needs with the email template below:

Dear Senator ,

As your constituent and supporter of Habitat for Humanity of Wake County, thank you for working quickly to address the economic hardship facing families and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the size of the crisis, there is still more that needs to be done to ensure housing stability and continuity for nonprofits in this time of crisis.

I ask that as negotiations continue around COVID-19 relief, you please support Habitat's key proposals to:

1. Establish the Homeowner Assistance Fund to boost foreclosure prevention efforts in all 50 states to help homeowners get caught up on missed mortgage payments after forbearance, and to increase access to other proven solutions like housing counseling. There is current legislation: S. 3620 and H.R. 6729.
2. Provide critical support to nonprofit organizations by:
 - Creating a program to support nonprofits in scaling services and helping those currently unemployed get back to work, as outlined in S. 3747.
 - Requiring Treasury to provide loans and loan guarantees to large nonprofits and to create a mechanism for loan forgiveness, as outlined in the Help Charities Protect Communities Act.
 - Extending a universal charitable deduction for additional years and increasing the maximum deduction up to \$2,000.
3. Provide no-cost capital to bona-fide nonprofit entities, such as Habitat for Humanity, to enable extended mortgage payment forbearance for low-income homeowners impacted by COVID-19.
4. Temporarily suspend the sweat equity hours requirement for HUD's Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP).

5. Provide additional funding for housing and service programs and allow significant flexibility to expedite their use. There should be additional funding for the following programs:

- Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) - \$15 million
- Section 4 Capacity Building Program - \$40 million
- HOME Investment Partnership Program - \$10 billion
- USDA 502 Direct Loan Program - \$1 billion
- Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) - \$500 million

The HEROES Act includes several of Habitat's priorities to support housing stability and provide relief for nonprofits, and we urge continued collaboration between the House and Senate to ensure housing stability and continuity for nonprofits such as Habitat for Humanity in serving communities across the country.

Thank you for your consideration of Habitat for Humanity's key priorities in the upcoming relief package.

Sincerely,

Your name