



Opportunity Finance Network: Member Profile



Housing Assistance Council

Washington, DC

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) is the only national intermediary organization focusing on the development of affordable housing in rural communities. Since its founding in 1971, the organization has emphasized local solutions, providing loans and technical assistance to enable local public, nonprofit, and private organizations to improve housing conditions in their own rural communities. HAC's borrowers have come from 49 states and two territories. The organization maintains a special focus on several high-needs groups and regions, including Appalachia, the Mississippi Delta, the southwestern border colonias, Native American lands, and farm workers.

Success Story: Southeastern Wisconsin Housing Corporation of Racine County (SEWHC), Burlington, WI

In 1972, SEWHC became one of the first ten organizations across America to receive a rural housing loan from HAC. Since receiving that first loan of \$647,000, SEWHC has continued to work with HAC and has built more than 1,500 units of affordable housing for low- and very low-income families in rural southeastern Wisconsin.

"HAC has been with us from the beginning. Without their assistance, it is doubtful that SEWHC would have been able to exist."

*Arturo Gonzalez
Executive Director, SEWHC*



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Mission

To improve housing conditions for the rural poor, with an emphasis on the poorest of the poor in the most rural places.

Products and services

- Eight loan funds for the development of affordable housing
- Technical assistance for organizations and developers improving low-income rural housing
- Training workshops emphasizing housing development, financing, construction, and nonprofit management
- Research and information on rural housing topics
- Advocacy for policies that sustain or increase federal, state, and local housing resources

Financial and social impact

- Loans made = 1,897, totaling more than \$218 million
- Low income families assisted = More than 57,000
- Units of affordable housing funded in rural areas = 44,144
- Water and sewer connections funded in rural areas = More than 16,000