



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Habitat for Humanity of York County calls on South Carolina congressional members to take action on the affordable housing crisis**

**York County, SC** —The dwindling supply of affordable starter homes across America is a crisis that denies millions of families the foundation for stability and opportunity, while straining communities and hindering economic growth. In response, Habitat for Humanity is stepping up to advocate for bold solutions, many of which will be highlighted this week at Habitat on the Hill, the organization's annual legislative event. This week, Habitat for Humanity of York County (HFHYC) will join hundreds of local Habitat organizations and housing advocates in a united call to Congress: It's time to address the housing crisis with urgency.

HFHYC will urge Representative Ralph Norman, Senator Tim Scott, and Senator Lindsey Graham to invest in both new and existing solutions to meaningfully expand the supply of starter homes:

- Support the Homeownership Supply Accelerator, Habitat's innovative federal policy concept designed to rapidly increase construction and rehabilitation of affordable starter homes
- Finalize the fiscal year 2025 appropriations process and provide robust funding for housing and community development federal programs in the fiscal year 2026 budget, including:
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD Bill):
    - No less than \$20 million for the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program
    - No less than \$1.5 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program
  - Department of Agriculture (Ag-Rural Development Bill):
    - No less than \$1.25 billion for the USDA Section 502 Direct Loan Program

In York County, the lack of affordable homes isn't just a statistic, it's a daily reality for families. These challenges exist nationwide, and current programs, while critical, are not enough. To that end, Habitat for Humanity helped to develop the Homeownership Supply Accelerator, a new federal fund designed to regrow the nation's stock of starter homes in every community that needs them, at prices affordable to low-and moderate-income homebuyers.

Regrowing the nation's stock of starter homes will expand families' economic security and stability; enable more businesses to attract and retain essential workers; strengthen economic growth; stabilize distressed neighborhoods and help close our nation's racial and economic wealth divides.

"Every day, we see families that still can't afford a safe, stable home," said Tim Veeck, HFHYC CEO. "Raising our voices is just as important as swinging our hammers when it comes to addressing the affordable housing crisis, and we look forward to working alongside lawmakers to ensure more people have a place to call home."

For more information on how to get involved or to donate, please visit [www.yorkcountyhabitat.org](http://www.yorkcountyhabitat.org) or contact Summersby Okey at [sokey@yorkcountyhabitat.org](mailto:sokey@yorkcountyhabitat.org) or (803) 982-9828 for more information about our services, please call (803) 328-1728 ext 3, or email [services@yorkcountyhabitat.org](mailto:services@yorkcountyhabitat.org).

### **Habitat for Humanity of York County**

*Habitat for Humanity of York County is a nonprofit organization that seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. HFHYC is dedicated to addressing disparities and creating equitable opportunities in the housing market through constructing, rehabilitating, and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing financial literacy education and access to resources to ensure everyone has the opportunity to thrive.*

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