

April 2022

To: New Jersey Habitat for Humanity Affiliate Executive Directors/CEO's

Proposal:

A Statewide Agreement to Work Together in Advocacy toward Mutual Goals

Purpose: NJ Habitat for Humanity Affiliates will join together in statewide advocacy to increase housing development and opportunities for families in need of affordable homes.

As a collective of NJ affiliates we will speak in one voice before lawmakers and elected officials to improve statewide policies, legislative outcomes and regulatory decisions. This effort will aim to improve and increase the production of safe, affordable housing for families in NJ while effectively communicating the Habitat for Humanity brand.

Process: An Advocacy Sub-Committee of the ED/CEO Leadership Team composed of affiliate board members and other volunteers, will work on selected statewide issues requiring advocacy in areas of legislation, policy and/or regulation. The subcommittee will work separately but in continued contact with and under the guidance and supervision of the executive directors/CEO's. A total of 2 or 3 topics, identified through surveying all Ed's/CEO's, will be selected for advocacy each year.

Activities: Volunteers on the advocacy committee (primarily members of affiliate boards of directors) will engage as needed in research, letter writing, contact with elected officials and testifying in public forums or participating in subject matter meetings. The advocacy sub-committee will work closely with allied partners, particularly the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ (HCDNNJ) and other entities with expertise to strengthen our efforts. We will work as a collective of Habitat affiliates giving voice to our brand statewide in areas of legislative, policy and regulatory advocacy.

Membership: All affiliates are urged to join this advocacy effort through volunteer participation on the advocacy sub-committee and/or by signing letters of support on key initiatives that are selected each year. The goal is to have all 17 affiliates represented.

Time Line for 2022:

April-Letter of Agreement signed by all active members of the ED Leadership Team

May-Outreach to affiliates to join the sub-committee

May-Survey Instrument of advocacy issues created and distributed to all affiliates

June-Review and research top tier issues identified through ED/CEO surveys –

July-Selection of issues for advocacy presented to ED/CEO Leadership Team –

August through December-Advocacy Sub-Committees' active work on selected issues