



# 2025 Impact Report



**Center for  
Housing  
Opportunity**

Fairfield County, CT

# Introduction

The Fairfield County Center for Housing Opportunity brings together municipal leaders, residents, advocates, lenders, developers, philanthropic partners, and community institutions to advance housing solutions tailored to Fairfield County’s needs. As a regional partnership of The Housing Collective and LISC CT, with Fairfield County’s Community Foundation, FCCHO works to produce, preserve, and protect housing by building the civic, institutional, and public-will infrastructure needed for housing solutions to take root.

In 2025, FCCHO focused on helping Fairfield County move beyond fragmented responses to housing challenges and toward stronger local and regional systems. Our work strengthened public understanding, elevated resident leadership, supported municipal readiness, and helped align cross-sector partners around practical strategies for action.

## FCCHO by the Numbers

TRACKING PROGRESS, DRIVING RESULTS, AND EXPANDING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

**1** Connecticut Foundation for Open Government Award earned

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**19** public events and convenings hosted

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**26** reports, fact sheets, and regional resources published

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**812** Residents and stakeholders participating/convened



# Driving Change in Fairfield County

## SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE ON HOUSING

In 2025, FCCHO hosted 19 public events and convenings and engaged 812 residents and stakeholders. A major vehicle for this work was the Fairfield County Talks Housing series, which brought together residents, municipal leaders, nonprofit partners, developers, and advocates to examine housing trends, share practical insights, and build shared understanding across sectors. These events helped move the conversation from whether Fairfield County has a housing problem to how communities can respond.

## MAKING THE CASE WITH LOCAL DATA

FCCHO produced an [affordability fact sheet for every municipality in Fairfield County](#) as part of a broader set of 26 reports, fact sheets, and regional resources published during the year. These tools helped residents, advocates, and local leaders see what common occupations and income levels can actually afford in their own communities, making the gap between wages and housing costs visible and difficult to ignore. These materials strengthened regional advocacy by grounding local conversations in concrete data.

## MAKING LOCAL DECISION-MAKING MORE REPRESENTATIVE

Through its [Room at the Table report](#), FCCHO examined participation in local land use governance and found that in Fairfield County, 10 percent of land use board seats were unfilled and another 10 percent were held by members serving expired terms. The report also found that boards were not demographically representative of the communities they serve. These findings helped shift the conversation beyond local control alone and toward who has access to the tables where housing decisions are made.



Fairfield County Talks Housing, August 2025 at Sacred Heart University.



Darien Walk Audit with Pro-Homes CT, October 2025.

### **INVESTING IN RESIDENT LEADERSHIP**

In 2025, FCCHO convened monthly, resident-led Housing Equity Coalition meetings and provided technical assistance to resident leaders to strengthen collaborative leadership, meeting practices, and civic engagement. These efforts helped historically marginalized Fairfield County residents participate more confidently in housing and land use processes and positioned them as active partners in shaping local solutions.

### **BUILDING A STRONGER HOUSING ECOSYSTEM**

FCCHO and LISC Connecticut also led a Fairfield County Affordable Housing Ecosystem Initiative, supported by Bank of America. Through six targeted convenings and a countywide roundtable, housing authorities, lenders, developers, and regional stakeholders identified 32 actionable opportunities and barriers shaping affordable housing development in Fairfield County. That work led to three pilot concepts focused on streamlining systems, expanding educational opportunities, and advancing financial innovation.

## **Looking Ahead**

### **EXPANDING IMPACT, STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS**

In 2026, FCCHO will deepen municipal technical assistance in communities including Fairfield, Norwalk, and Bridgeport; expand community engagement in target towns; and grow new work connecting housing and health. We will also begin advancing pilot concepts from the Fairfield County Affordable Housing Ecosystem Initiative, including strategies to streamline local processes, strengthen education and training, and expand financial tools that can support more affordable housing development across Fairfield County. At the same time, FCCHO will continue investing in resident leadership, innovative housing models, and the partnerships needed to sustain long-term regional progress.

### **CONTACT**

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