



The Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance (“SECHA”)

Advocacy for the creation of affordable and workforce housing is critical to our region

Main Concept:

The collection, analysis, and distribution of accurate and timely regional housing information ultimately encourages interest in housing issues thus, makes affordable housing more accessible by removing various barriers. Through the collaboration with the Builders Association of Eastern CT and other likeminded professionals, SECHA can leverage its advocacy efforts in promoting housing development and increase the number of homes being built in the region.

Access to affordable housing promotes a wide array of positive outcomes. As such, affordable housing like home ownership:

- promotes better health for most people particularly children
- enhances opportunities for better education
- strengthens families by allowing connections to support systems
- allows more disposable income for basic needs, and other goods and services; thus promotes economic development
- enables workforce to live in the towns where they are employed; enables the elderly to stay in the region
- promotes smart growth and transit oriented development thus, reduces regional housing & transportation costs

Our advocacy services demonstrate collaborative initiatives with Chief Elected Officials, regional Council of Governments, state agencies, major employers within our region, community leaders, lenders, real estate developers, planners, historical preservationists, home builders and others. Such collaborations are being explored and used as a way to keep SECHA sustainable while it leverages our efforts in dispelling affordable housing myths, removing barriers to housing, and creating additional housing options via bringing the big picture into focus.

Past Success:

SECHA supports the HomeConnecticut Campaign by assisting southeastern CT municipalities in drafting their town’s Affordable Housing Plans and assisting in the implementation of Incentive Housing Zone regulations. Smart Growth and Sustainable Design practices in the development of affordable housing are encouraged and supported.

Future Endeavors:

SECHA plans to intensify advocacy efforts with a more hands on approach by providing municipalities with creative housing solutions via: distributing and collecting housing information via our web-site; collecting requests for housing via our web-site; working with employers to assist the workforce with housing; hosting housing forums; sponsoring and funding workshops on current housing topics; assisting municipalities with long term strategic planning; assistance in analyzing adaptive reuse of abandoned or vacant properties; representing the municipal leaders as their housing liaison; and launching an Affordable Housing Campaign in the summer of 2012. SECHA welcomes regional collaborative partners for sustainability and increased advocacy performance.

Issue:

Our concern about the sustainability of SECHA as an organization is an issue at hand.

Solution:

With support from collaborative partners, innovative programs and marketing, and a steady revenue stream thereof, SECHA can maintain its effectiveness via improving communications, increasing outreach, creating new programs and initiatives to assist in the creation of housing, and achieving sustainability through financial stability.

Summary:

SECHA can be utilized as a resource for builders, developers, employers, and municipal leaders in their long term strategic planning, and in many ways can work to help employers and municipalities create the housing they need. With the identification of a stable funding source, SECHA will be able to build on its successes, and continue to serve folks in eastern Connecticut.