Employer-assisted Housing Programs







OVERVIEW

Employer-assisted housing programs provide a channel through which employers can help their employees with the cost of owning or renting a home. Assistance can be provided through down-payment grants or loans, homeownership counseling and education, rental subsidies, and even investment in the construction or acquisition of housing for employees. In cases where organizations or businesses are having trouble hiring employees due to housing challenges, employer-assisted housing may alleviate those issues. Programs can vary widely and may include businesses renting housing units on behalf of their employees or building new housing and selling it to employees.



POTENTIAL BENEFITS & CONSIDERATIONS

- · Can help retain and attract employees
- Supports attainable housing for those working in the region
- Implementation may vary based on employer incentives and ability to execute
- May require private businesses to add additional programming to their existing business operations and model
- More likely to benefit larger employers, though smaller businesses may look to collaborate with other smaller businesses on a program
- Does not rely on public funds to implement, but is at the discretion and direction of the businesses

RESOURCES & EXAMPLES

Employer-Assisted Housing Resource Guide: A Primer for Employers and Community Leaders

- This report by the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund provides various strategies that can be used to help employees obtain affordable housing and an overview of the roles, resources, and benefits of local governments and other sectors in the provision of employer-assisted housing programs.

Live Near Your Work - This program in Baltimore, MD (funded partly by employers and partly by the City) offers support for home buying for employees of participating Baltimore employers.

CASE STUDY: BROADREACH HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE HOUSING INITIATIVE

Broadreach Healthcare, in Chatham, MA, has a workforce housing initiative to help their employees secure housing in the region. The initiative includes options for shared housing and apartments at rents that are more affordable than market rates. They also offer employees additional financing support and tools.

More information is available *here*.

