

Dear Colleague,

*“Where a person lives really does determine the opportunities that a person has in all aspects of their life. Housing matters.”*

This foundational principle, shared by session moderator **Jeanne Fekade-Sellassie** of **Funders for Housing and Opportunity (FHO)**, launched an engaging and thoughtful dialogue during the July 19 webinar, **“The Case for Housing as a Platform: A Philanthropic Perspective,”** on the importance of housing as a platform to support a wide range of life outcomes for children and families. Three FHO Steering Committee members shared their foundations’ perspectives on the overlapping and comprehensive impacts of safe, stable, high-quality affordable housing. **Monica Valdes Lupi** from **The Kresge Foundation** provided several examples of the impacts of affordable housing on health outcomes, **Dana Bourland** from **The JPB Foundation** tied together housing and environmental and climate justice, and **Charles Rutheiser** from the **Annie E. Casey Foundation** noted the connection between stable housing and family stability, opportunity, increased social fabric of a community and improved educational attainment. He reflected, *“Housing is a basic fundamental need that is interconnected and bound up with a whole set of life outcomes.”*

The second half of the session lifted up the value of funder collaboratives as spaces for joint philanthropic investment and cross-funder learning, and the importance of trust-based philanthropy. As a commentator, **Schlonn Hawkins** drew from her current role at **Shelterforce** and prior experience in local philanthropy and as a GLR state lead in Delaware to reflect on the vital importance of two-way communication between funders and grantees. *“It’s not only about what we as funders want. It’s about what those who are receiving it need. The programs that I’ve seen that worked really do partner with the folks who are experiencing it and actually are leading it on the ground.”*

In addition to serving as a GLR Week 2022 plenary session, “The Case for Housing as a Platform” began the 2022 All-America City Awards, which lifted up the many ways in which public and affordable housing can be used to advance early school success and equitable learning recovery for children and families, with a particular focus on those who are economically challenged. For more information on All-America City Award, the 10 AAC winners and the 20 finalists, please visit the [AAC website](#).

Speaker Websites:

- [The Annie E. Casey Foundation – housing](#)
- [Funders for Housing and Opportunity](#)
- [The JPB Foundation](#)
- [The Kresge Foundation](#)
- [Shelterforce](#)

Resources:

- [30th Anniversary of the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit](#), The Kresge Foundation
- [Funders Together to End Homelessness](#)
- [Housing Choice Voucher Program](#), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- [Local Housing Solutions](#)
- [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#)
- [Opportunity Starts at Home](#)
- [Voices of Youth Count: Understanding and Ending Youth Homelessness](#), Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Organizations Lifted Up by Speakers:

- [Atlanta Lawyers Volunteer Foundation](#)
- [Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership](#)
- [Baltimore Renters United](#)
- [Chicanos por la Causa](#)
- [Connecticut Fair Housing Center](#)
- [Miami Workers Center](#)
- [Right to the City](#)