



VIRGINIA FUNDERS
NETWORK

Finding your Lane: Housing Affordability Action Guide for Virginia Funders

In partnership with
Virginia Housing
Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia

2025

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VIRGINIA FUNDERS NETWORK

ABOUT THE VIRGINIA FUNDERS NETWORK

The Virginia Funders Network (VFN) is a community of over 130 philanthropic investors who strengthen Virginia communities through collaborative learning and action. We are the only Virginia-based organization serving the philanthropic sector, serving as a convener for statewide and regional efforts to advance opportunities for all who call Virginia home.

This publication was developed in Fall 2024 - January 2025. Some information may have changed since then.

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Introduction to the Action Guide

Affordable, accessible, and safe housing continues to be a number one concern for Virginia's residents and communities. News headlines occur every day announcing the need for more housing, lower costs, more access, fewer zoning barriers, etc.

Virginia Funders Network (VFN) hopes to break down some of the barriers keeping funders from supporting affordable and workforce housing initiatives. We'd like to encourage more funders to be involved in this growing and critical problem in our state. Special thanks to generous support from Virginia Housing and the Wellspring Foundation of Southwest Virginia for the production of this guide.

We have hosted numerous conversations with VFN members, nonprofits, and others to hear about what they have done in housing affordability, and how they got started. This input has helped to shape this publication, *Finding Your Lane: Housing Affordability Action Guide for Virginia Funders*.

The guide is organized in three sections:

Part 1:

Introduction to Housing Affordability and Ways Funders Can be Involved

Includes an introduction to why funding is important in Virginia communities, the continuum of housing options, and the ways funders can be involved.

Part 2:

Mini-Case Studies in Virginia

Includes some brief case studies of how Virginia funders are investing in housing affordability and accessibility in their communities.

Part 3:

Resource Appendix

Includes resources for funders, including materials and the types of organizations that focus on housing at federal, state, and local levels.

We hope you find this report to be a useful resource, and we look forward to learning how you have used it in your work.

Best wishes in finding your lane,

Bess Littlefield, CEO, VFN

Dan Layman, Chair, VFN and President & CEO, Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge



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