



Accessible Housing Austin!

Background

Accessible Housing Austin! was founded in 2005 by disability rights advocates who recognized that the scarcity of housing was a critical issue for people with disabilities. With a 73% unemployment rate, people with disabilities are overrepresented in Austin's low-income population. Affordable housing is a keystone to alleviating the negative effects of poverty, as it reduces chaos and uncertainty for individuals and families who are seeking to stabilize with their disability. As housing prices rise, it is increasingly difficult for them to find homes that are affordable, accessible, and integrated into safe, transit-oriented, and amenity-rich neighborhoods.

Who We Are

AHA!'s mission is to provide affordable, accessible, integrated housing for low-income people with disabilities; we are the only housing non-profit in Austin led by members of the disability community. People with disabilities comprise three-fifths of the board of directors and hold the positions of president and vice-president. Two of these board members are affordable housing consumers; the others are affordable and disability housing professionals. AHA!'s Executive Director has eleven years of experience providing affordable housing to low-income people with disabilities.

History and Properties

Our first house was acquired from the estate of Carol Eisenberg, a longtime advocate in the disability advocacy community whose family wanted to see her house continue to be used by people with disabilities. A second advocate willed his accessible home in Southwest Austin to us in 2010. Starting in 2011, AHA! entered into a partnership with the Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation (TSHAC) to acquire foreclosed properties, rehabilitate them to be accessible, and lease them to very low-income people with disabilities. AHA! currently manages five homes through this partnership. All seven of our homes are conveniently located near transit, shopping and other neighborhood amenities.

Whom We Serve

We currently serve a total of seven households whose annual income averages \$17,869. AHA!'s tenants represent a diverse range of Austinites with disabilities, including adults with mobility impairments and children with physical and emotional disabilities.

Plans to Grow

We are expanding our housing inventory by rehabilitating two more units in a duplex in South Austin in partnership with TSAHC. Additionally, we are developing a 20-unit apartment complex in a conveniently located neighborhood of Northeast Austin.

How to Get in Touch

If you would like more information, please contact Isabelle Headrick, Executive Director, at 512. 442-6680.