



# MEET SEATTLE'S NEW SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPER

## **Seattle Social Housing (SSH)**

is a public development authority focused on addressing the city's housing needs through innovative social housing solutions. Created in 2023 with the passage of I-135, we intend to acquire and build high-quality housing that is publicly owned and permanently affordable, sustainable and inclusive for all Seattle residents.

## **A public development authority (PDA) is a public corporation that serves a specific and dedicated public purpose or function.**

In our case, SSH is a PDA charged with creating and providing innovative social housing solutions for Seattle. This status and our charter give us a public mission while operating separately from the Seattle city government. It means all buildings and units will be public goods, and not privately owned by developers or individuals. This makes housing a social good, where profit is not a driving force.

## **Social housing ensures that the people who power our economy can afford to live where they work.**

Our model bridges a critical housing gap for those who cannot afford Seattle's high rents but do not qualify for traditional subsidized affordable housing. By providing more working people with access to affordable, quality housing, we can help to prevent homelessness and create thriving, sustainable communities.

### **SSH IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE SEATTLE COMMUNITY AND TO ITS 13-MEMBER BOARD**

Members are appointed by the Seattle City Council and Mayor, Seattle Renters Commission, and community and labor organizations. Board members have a breadth of relevant expertise and experience:

- Urban planning and transit
- Affordable housing development and asset management
- Economic and community development
- Green architecture
- Labor organizing and workforce concerns
- Lived experience of housing instability



**We're poised and ready to make social housing available.** We have already started assessing multiple potential sites on which to build social housing. Once we are funded, we also plan to acquire existing buildings and convert them into social housing, which allows us to make units accessible quickly in the near-term. Our timeline for providing social housing should be significantly shorter than traditional affordable housing due to our public financing model.

## SSH'S NEW CEO BRINGS A DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE IN HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Roberto Jiménez** moved to Seattle from Sacramento, California, to lead Seattle Social Housing in 2024.

Mr. Jiménez understands the community-building opportunities inherent in affordable multifamily housing through his work with farmworkers in rural Oregon and his experience developing and managing affordable real estate in California. Mr. Jiménez was most recently the CEO of both Mutual Housing California and Mutual Housing Management where he oversaw a \$10 million budget, developed 1,000 new rental homes, and created an active pipeline valued at \$500,000,000 financed through public/private/philanthropic sources. Mutual Housing also developed the first zero net energy multifamily housing community in the U.S. and the first LGBTQ+ affordable senior housing community outside a major U.S. city. Under his tenure, Mutual Housing won state, national, and international awards for its sustainable, energy-efficient multifamily housing.



**ROBERTO JIMÉNEZ**

While serving as director of the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation in Woodburn, Oregon, from 2005 to 2016, he tripled the size of its affordable housing portfolio, developed or rehabbed 330 units of diverse multifamily housing worth a total of \$77 million, and managed a variety of resident services programs. He then launched and was CEO of Evolve Workforce and Property Management, Oregon's only nonprofit third-party affordable property management company focused on providing job training opportunities.

Mr. Jiménez has a diverse background in training, writing, and communications for the nonprofit sector and brings an equity lens to all his work. He is a published researcher on the health impacts of discrimination against immigrant Latinos in Oregon. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Oregon in comparative literature and an executive education degree in community development from Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.