



Self-Help Homeownership



Your labor is your downpayment!

What is the self-help homeownership program?

The self-help program provides an opportunity for working, moderate income families to contribute “sweat equity” toward the purchase of their home. Each year, 6 families work together under the guidance of a construction supervisor provided by MHO to build homes and create a community.

Self-Help Benefits

- Requires a minimal out-of-pocket financial contribution
- Enables immediate home equity (*a typical homeowner achieves between \$15,000-\$25,000 in home equity*)
- Provides valuable construction and maintenance skills
- Builds a strong and cooperative community

Who is eligible?

- Households earning 80% or below the AMI
- Borrowers with acceptable credit scores
- Borrowers with at least one year of stable employment
- Borrowers who are not currently homeowners
- Borrowers willing to contribute time and labor toward building the Self-Help homes
- Borrowers who have lived in WNC for at least one year

Construction

- No construction experience is required. All work is completed under the guidance of an MHO supervisor.
- Groups participate in at least 65% of the tasks involved in building their homes.

- Each household must be willing to complete approximately 20 hours of productive labor per week.
- All houses are completed before any family moves in.
- MHO house plans range from 1,000-1,400 square feet.

MHO Loan Terms

- Home mortgages are arranged through USDA. Interest rates vary according to a participant's need and can be subsidized to as low as one percent.
- No down payment! The value of your labor is the down payment on your new home.
- 33-year mortgage. Terms can be extended to 38-years for families with significant need.
- Low monthly payments! Many borrowers qualify for an interest rate subsidy based on household income.
- Borrower must be the primary resident of the home.
- Borrower is required to purchase Builder's Risk Insurance prior to construction and Homeowners Insurance thereafter.

Education Requirements

Program participants must complete an OnTrack Financial Education & Counseling Services home-buyer education course before the close of the loan. On Track (828-255-5166) offers both evening and weekend courses.

Maximum Annual Income Limits*			
Household Size	Buncombe & Henderson Counties	Haywood County	Madison County
1	\$45,000	\$39,700	\$45,000
2	\$51,400	\$45,400	\$51,400
3	\$57,850	\$51,050	\$57,850
4	\$64,250	\$56,700	\$64,250
5	\$69,400	\$61,250	\$69,400

*Inquire for larger family sizes

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