



Community Housing Services Agency, Inc.

The Insider Update

Community Housing News

Volume 1, Number 4 June 2023



Employer Down Payment Assistance Programs Create Intergenerational Wealth

One of the most joyful accomplishments we get to celebrate at CHSA is the sale of homes to buyers with modest incomes. June is [National Homeownership Month](#) - and CHSA invites you to support potential

home owners. Memorial Healthcare is only one of the employer assisted down payment programs administered by CHSA through the Savannah Affordable Housing Fund. Businesses located outside of the City of Savannah are also eligible to establish down payment assistance through the CHSA Fund.

Homeownership can provide many benefits for families of all sizes and incomes:

- Builds wealth and equity over time
- Provides housing stability
- Provides control and choice over their living environment
- Improves health and well-being
- Strengthens social ties and civic engagement

Local businesses can set up a down payment assistance fund for employees that will provide great incentives for both hiring and retention. Just as CEO Shayne George of Memorial Healthcare notes in the video, "Purchasing a home creates a sense of belonging."

CHSA is not only a CDFI, but also a partner and an advocate for the community we serve. Together, we can create more inclusive and equitable neighborhoods where everyone can thrive.

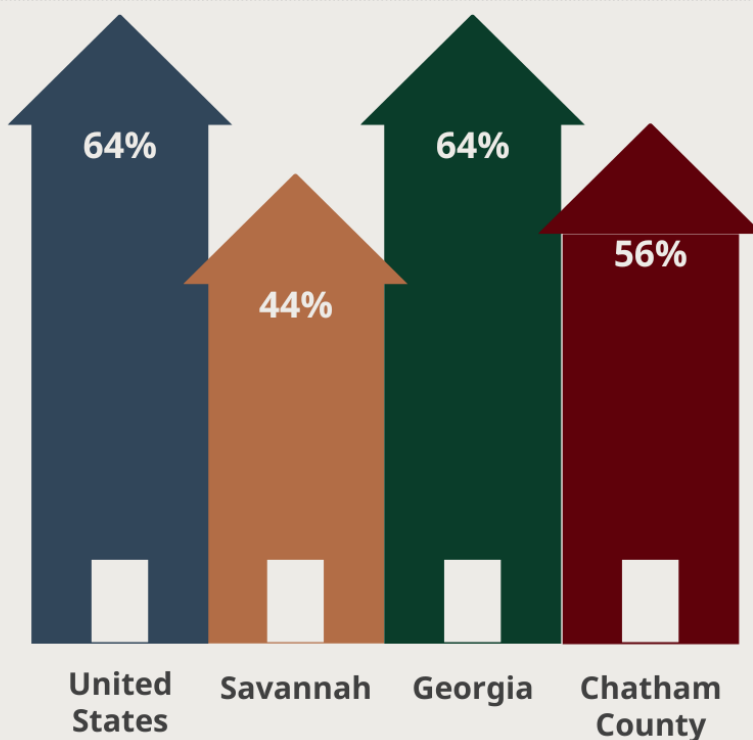
Questions should be directed to Anita Smith-Dixon at 912-651-2169.

[**Download a One-pager on Employer-Sponsored
Down Payment Assistance Programs**](#)

Home Ownership Rates in Savannah are Low

Fewer people own the homes they live in, especially persons of color. Home ownership can be more affordable than renting, yet only 44% of Savannah residents own the home they live in. CHSA provides technical support and financing opportunities that support home ownership for households with modest wages.

Percentage of owner-occupied homes, 2016-2020



Source: American Community Survey, 2021

Empowering Communities: Building Affordable Housing with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) for Purposeful Impact in Georgia

Anita Smith-Dixon will be a panelist for this June 29 webinar.

Affordable housing remains a pressing concern across the state of Georgia and now is the time for collective action. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) invite you to join us in a meaningful event that will serve as a catalyst for positive change in our communities. In particular, we aim to address the persistent lack of affordable housing options faced by low-to moderate-income individuals and communities.

Empowering Communities: Building Affordable Housing with Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) for Purposeful Impact will bring together leading CDFIs, financial institutions and community organizations. Together, we will engage in discussions

and strategize solutions for the affordable housing crisis. This event seeks to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among CDFIs and stakeholders who play a vital role in supporting affordable housing initiatives.

Through informative panel discussions, participants will have the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and organizations, nurturing partnerships that can drive impactful change. Uniting CDFIs, financial institutions and community organizations, this event intends to ignite collaboration, inspire innovative solutions and lay a foundation for a more inclusive and equitable future during National Homeownership Month.

Presenters:

Robert Cooke, Executive Director, Southwest Georgia United

Mandy Eidson, Director (Loan Fund), Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership

George Romagnoli, Senior Vice President, Neighborhood Lending Partners

Anita Smith-Dixon, Executive Director, Community Housing Services Agency, Inc.

April Atkins, Community Affairs Officer, OCC

Terry Lee, Community Affairs Specialist, FDIC

When: Thursday, June 29, 2023, from 10:00 AM ET to 12:00 PM ET

Where: WebEx, registration information below

Who should attend: Financial institutions, CDFIs, non-profit organizations, other community-based organizations, state and local government, and other stakeholders interested in affordable housing development strategies targeted to low-and moderate-income families.

Registration Information: To register online, click [REGISTER](#) to complete the requested information. You will receive a confirmation email once completed.

[REGISTER FOR JUNE 29 FDIC WORKSHOP](#)

Did you know that CHSA offers home ownership resources and support to individuals with modest incomes? Your donation will help!

Your donation will increase the number of owner-occupied homes in Chatham County, CHSA provides technical support and referrals to potential homeowners in Chatham County, including:

- mortgage application support
- down payment programs
- secondary (gap) financing
- financial education for potential home buyers

[Donate to CHSA!](#)

How can Black historic preservation promote Community Development and Sustainability?



Join Dr. Deborah Johnson-Simon at Savannah State University for a conversation about utilizing the rich cultural heritage of African Americans in Georgia and historic preservation to foster economic growth within our communities.

Wednesday, June 28, 2023 | 1 - 4 pm

Asa Gordon Library @ Savannah State

2200 Tompkins Rd, Savannah, GA

[Register](#)

Zoning Update: Accessory Dwelling Unit Restrictions Eased in Savannah!

Property owners have new opportunities to add an apartment, in-law suite or accessory dwelling unit to a backyard in Savannah, thanks to the City Council.

It might be possible for you to build an affordable apartment on your property, such as a tiny home like the ones depicted here.

[Find out more HERE.](#)



Help us share good news!

Please share our newsletter with friends and colleagues! Each month, we bring you updates on the projects and partners who contribute to affordable housing in Savannah!

[NEWSLETTER SIGNUP](#)

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