

NEWS RELEASE

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Nonprofit boldly engages in the affordable housing crisis with first in position paper series

ORLANDO, Fla. (July 20, 2021) – Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County is putting its stake in the ground with the first in a series of position papers calling for an evolution of today’s housing policies.

[“Building Broad-Based Prosperity™: A Position Paper Calling for an Evolution of Today’s Housing Policies”](#) outlines a courageous proposal for the work ahead, promising to redouble the nonprofit’s efforts, publicly pledging to work closely with others in this common cause, and boosting the growing momentum of Broad-Based Prosperity.

The challenge of affordable housing can be overwhelming for Central Floridians struggling under the burden of skyrocketing housing costs and for our region’s community organizations working relentlessly to address a complex socioeconomic problem.

Housing is a “wicked problem,” or one that is difficult to solve because of incomplete, contradictory, and changing requirements. Addressing this worsening crisis calls for new ways of thinking, leading, managing and organizing. This [position paper](#) introduces four mindset shifts necessary to tackle Central Florida’s ever-worsening affordable housing crisis.

Florida residents now need to make \$24.82/hour – a \$51,619 annual salary – to afford a two-bedroom rental at fair-market value, according to a recent National Low Income Housing Coalition report. Half of Orlando’s workforce makes below \$17.59/hour.

Nine out of 10 of workers in essential occupations, such as ambulance drivers and teaching assistants, are unable to afford a one-bedroom rental.

With this position paper series, Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s goals are to spark dialogue and drive progress toward more affordable housing and a more prosperous Central Florida. Several more papers will be released in the coming months that explore solutions in greater detail.

About Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County

Driven by a vision that everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to live, Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County builds and repairs homes, and strengthens communities. Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat Orlando & Osceola to build or

improve a place they call home. Habitat homeowners help build their eventual homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Working together by donating, volunteering, or becoming an advocate, everyone can help members of their community live in safe, affordable homes.

Habitat Orlando & Osceola is one of Habitat for Humanity International's affiliates working in nearly 1,400 communities throughout the United States and in more than 70 countries. To learn more, visit [HabitatOrlandoOsceola.org](https://www.habitatorlandoosceola.org), like us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).