

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Realtor® Organization Awards \$33,000 in Grants to Local Homeownership Groups**

Portland, Ore. — The Portland Metropolitan Association of Realtors® (PMAR) in partnership with the Oregon Association of Realtors® HOME Foundation announce grant awards for seven non-profit organizations in the Portland metropolitan area that provide homeownership opportunities, retention and homebuyer education throughout the region.

The HOME Foundation awarded grants to:

1. African American Alliance for Homeownership (AAAH)	\$5,000
2. Community Energy Project	\$5,000
3. Habitat for Humanity West Tuality	\$5,000
4. Portland Community Reinvestment (PCRI)	\$5,000
5. Portland Housing Center	\$5,000
6. Proud Ground	\$5,000
7. Rebuilding Together Portland	\$3,000

The Oregon Realtors® HOME Foundation (OAR HOME) provides financial resources to organizations that create, expand, or encourage homeownership opportunities for Oregonians at or below local median income. The foundation also promotes awareness of affordable housing issues by educating Oregonians and their elected government representatives about the barriers to homeownership and the resources needed to increase housing affordability.

**Portland Housing Center (PHC)** - In FY2018 PHC served 1,220 households with 356 households tracked to successful homeownership purchase. PHC serves the entire metro area, with funding available for MAP loans in Clark County as well as Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington County.

**Tuality Habitat for Humanity** - Habitat completed 9 projects and has 13 more in process. The completed projects have benefitted nineteen individuals, 7 of whom are disabled and 6 are elderly. Projects in process will benefit approximately 30 more, of whom nearly half are elderly, disabled or both. All repair projects are provided to homeowners who are at or below 80% of Area Median Income, most are at or below 50% of AMI. These are homeowners who otherwise would not have access to the home repair services they need.

**Proud Ground** - In 2018, Proud Ground helped 19 families achieve the dream of homeownership, growing our community to 363 homeowners. Of the new homeowners, 53% are families of color and 89% are families with children. Proud Ground educated 135 first-time homebuyers and supported 25 households in becoming mortgage ready this year. Proud Ground expanded its homeownership opportunities to the Cities of Hillsboro and Vancouver, as well as Lincoln County. Proud Ground resold 4 homes this year to homebuyers earning an average of 57% AMI. Thanks to the Community Land Trust model, these homes added to our 296-home portfolio, with no new funding needed.

**Community Energy Project** - In 2018, Community Energy Project served more than 200 homes with critical repair and weatherization services for low-income seniors and individuals experiencing disability. An additional 50 received expanded repairs to their homes and 27 clients received water heater upgrades to reduce their water heating cost by 2/3s. On top of direct services, CEP's education department reached 1,200 household teaching workshops on lead poison prevention, weatherization, and do-it-yourself attic insulation. 2018 also saw the expansion of our energy efficiency programming, now offering free consultations to homeowners considering efficiency upgrades and connecting them with qualified contractors and lenders. Looking ahead, CEP is expanding its impact in each department, leading more **clients toward safe, efficient homes regardless of their income.**

**Rebuilding Together:** - Utilizing last year's OHF grants, Rebuilding Together was able to address 43 home renovations on National Rebuild day in April 2018. We also were able to tackle 6 additional Rebuild Projects later in the year and more than forty smaller Safe and Healthy Repair Program projects in 2018.

**African American Alliance for Homeownership** served 165 clients with homebuying education and financial assistance programs, including Individual Development Accounts (IDA) and Down Payment Assistance Loans (DPAL) totaling approximately \$335,000 in DPAL and \$45,000 in IDA matched funds. AAAH assisted 21 homebuyers attain the American Dream of Homeownership in 2018. AAAH's 2019 goals include expanding its homebuyer program services/ education to Hillsboro/Washington county, increasing the number of first-time homebuyers, expanding its home retention services throughout the Portland metro area.

**Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives (PCRI)** will be completing construction of the first four homes (in 2019) for homeownership later this month. We have six more (houses) breaking ground next week, with at least another 10 coming later this year. These are just the first of 800 homes that PCRI plans to develop for homeownership over the course of 10 years in order to help people that were displaced or at risk of displacement return to/stay in N/NE Portland. In addition to new construction homes, PCRI's Homeownership Coordinators have helped many people become homeowners on the general market in the past year with many more to come!

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*PMAR, the voice of real estate in the Portland metropolitan area, is Oregon's largest local Realtor® association. Representing more than 8,000 professionals involved in all aspects of the real estate industry, PMAR is committed to protecting and promoting homeownership, establishing and maintaining high professional standards of practice and creating unity in the profession. Questions about homeownership? Visit [www.HOWNW.com](http://www.HOWNW.com), a one-stop information without obligation resource on buying a home.*