September 27, 2021

The Honorable Mike DeWine

Governor

State of Ohio

77 S. High St. 30th floor

Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

As a supporter of Habitat for Humanity of Ohio, I ask you to help lead efforts to create a one-time investment of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFR) to expand access to affordable homeownership. The pandemic has cast a light on the deplorable living conditions of many Ohioans and the fact homeownership is out of reach for many hard-working families.

State support for day-one affordable homeownership is surprisingly miniscule. On average, the Ohio Housing Trust Fund generates more than $40 Million annually for housing assistance, ***but only $250,000 is used for day-one affordable homeownership*** through a grant administered by Habitat for Humanity of Ohio. Given that there is a 50-year low in the inventory of available homes, particularly affordable starter homes, more must be done.

Stable, affordable homes are indispensable for Ohioans’ health, education, and well-being. Investments are needed along the full housing continuum to address our growing shortage of decent, affordable homes. This must include resources for affordable homeownership—especially if we believe all Ohioans should have an opportunity to reach the middle class, build wealth and achieve economic prosperity.

Habitat for Humanity provides affordable, decent housing opportunities to hard-working Ohioans through its self-help homeownership model. **In many Ohio communities, Habitat for Humanity is the only provider of affordable homeownership opportunities.**

The State of Ohio can partner with Habitat for Humanity to meet the funding objectives of the SLFR as outlined by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Our organization is uniquely positioned to help Ohioans secure a safe place to live and recover from the adverse effects of the pandemic. Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Your name

Contact info you would like to provide