

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE AWARD

Mountain Housing Opportunities



Mountain Housing Opportunities' mission is to build and improve homes, neighborhoods, and communities, and to build hope and dignity in the lives of the people it serves. Since its founding in 1988, MHO has assisted over **7,000 families and 12,000 individuals** with rental housing, emergency repair,

homeownership and down payment assistance. Not only does MHO produce affordable, energy efficient housing, its leaders educate others and advocate for solutions to our region's housing challenges.

For decades, MHO and OnTrack WNC have collaborated for the betterment of our community – sometimes, one family at a time. When potential renters get wait-listed, MHO refers them to our **credit builder program** so bad credit won't ruin their chance when their name moves to the top of the list. MHO clients on the homeownership track are required to attend our **Homebuyer Education** series to give them tools for long-term success. For OnTrack WNC clients who are ready to buy their first home, MHO's **Down Payment Assistance** makes the purchase possible and sustainable in this challenging market. Over the years, MHO has also generously connected us with scholarship slots for our staff to receive **NeighborWorks training** in foundational Financial Capabilities best practices.

In 2010 OnTrack WNC received one of ten US Department of Treasury multi-year demonstration grants focused on increasing homeownership opportunities for low-income renters. MHO was our main partner for the **HomeRun Program**; residents in MHO rental communities benefited from matched savings for homeownership, credit improvement, community education, and financial coaching.

MHO Executive Director Scott Dedman describes their vital work this way: *"We believe that if you work in Asheville or Buncombe County, you should be able to live in this community in a safe, attractive, affordable home in a good neighborhood – and when you retire or if you become disabled, this should still be true."* **Congratulations MHO!**