

## Mobilizing Private Investment in Affordable Housing

**Lessons from the United States** 

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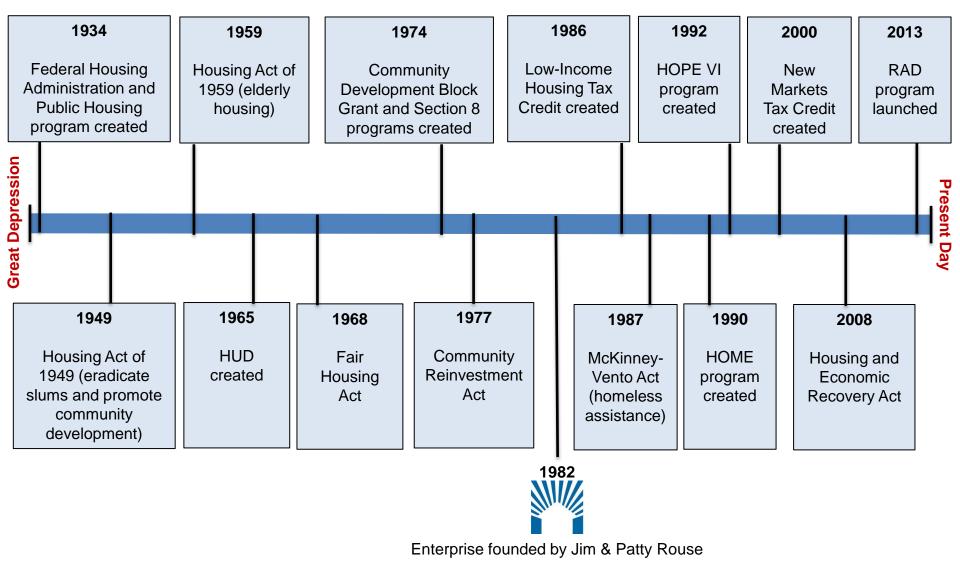
#### **TODAY'S DISCUSSION**

- Affordable housing finance in the U.S.
- Enterprise's role
- The challenges we face today
- Possible lessons for the Canadian system



#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF U.S. AFFORABLE HOUSING POLICY

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#### HOW THE LOW-INCOME HOUSINGTAX CREDIT WORKS







1) Federal Allocation Internal Revenue Service determines total tax credit allocations for the year and divide it among states on an per-capita basis. 2) State Allocation State housing agencies allocate tax credits to specific developments through a competitive process that reflects local funding and policy priorities





#### 4) Syndication

Outside investors contribute capital to the development in exchange for the tax credit which they later claim on their taxes. (Banks often also get CRA credit for these investments.) This transaction is usually done through an intermediary, known as a "syndicator."



#### 3) Development

A multifamily developer agrees to keep rents affordable to low-income families for 30 years in exchange for the tax credit. They either claim the credit on their own taxes or pass it along to investors through a process known as "syndication."

- Enterprise
- Financed virtually all of the country's affordable housing construction over the past 26 years
- Financed more than 2.6 million affordable rental homes
- Leveraged nearly **\$100 billion in private investment**
- Creates about 95,000 jobs each year
- Government only pays after an affordable home is constructed, rented to a low-income family and secured as affordable for at least 30 years
- Third-party oversight from investors

New York City	<ul> <li>Plan to build and preserve 165,000 affordable homes by 2013</li> <li>Several innovative financing tools for affordable housing</li> </ul>
Cleveland	<ul> <li>Pledge to end chronic homelessness in the city by 2020</li> <li>Pursuing a "pay-for-success" agreement to fund permanent supportive housing construction</li> </ul>
Seattle	<ul> <li>Voter-approved Housing Levy Tax to construct and preserve affordable housing</li> <li>Tax exemption for affordable multifamily development</li> </ul>
Massachusetts	<ul> <li>Pursuing a "pay-for-success" agreement to reduce chronic homelessness in the state</li> </ul>

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#### **INTRO TO ENTERPRISE**



# Enterprise

#### **Affordable Housing**

Affordable housing development

**Rental preservation** 

Green development & retrofits



#### **Sustaining Communities**

Neighborhood revitalization

Transit-oriented development

#### **Foreclosure** prevention



Vulnerable Populations

Senior housing

Homelessness

**Veterans** 

Rural & Native American housing

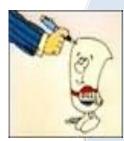


#### THE ENTERPRISE MODEL



### **Connecting Capital**

Harness investment capital to build healthy, sustainable communities.



### **Transforming Policy**

Engage government to create and enhance policies that strengthen community development investment.



### **Innovating Solutions**

Put ideas into action to create stronger, thriving communities.

#### A FEW KEY PARTNERS





## Over our 30-year history, we've helped invest almost \$14 billion in communities and financed 300,000 affordable homes

Business Line	Estimated Investments in \$M (Inception through 2012)	Estimated Homes Financed (Inception through 2012)
Low-Income Housing Tax Credits	\$9,193	119,210
New Markets Tax Credits	\$670	3,762
Mortgage Loans (Bellwether- Enterprise)	\$954	25,249
Enterprise Community Loan Fund	\$1,115	86,103
Enterprise Homes	\$662	5,298
Green Communities *	\$2,300	32,000
Grants & Technical Assistance	\$146	NA
ALL ENTERPRISE	~\$14,000	~300,000

\* NOTE: Since most green initiatives span multiple business lines, row totals do not add to the "All Enterprise" total.

#### THE CHALLENGES WE FACE





RISING POVERTY LEVELS & WIDENING GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR



DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS & INCREASED DEMAND FOR RENTAL HOUSING



SKYROCKETING RENTS & INSUFFICIENT PRODUCTION OF AFFORDABLE HOMES



TRADITIONAL FUNDING & SUPPORT STRUCTURES AT RISK





A FRAGMENTED AND SUBSCALE FIELD

### THE ONGOING AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS





630,000 people homeless on a given night



8.5 million families with "worst-case housing needs"



20 million families paying more than half of their monthly income on housing



5 million more low-income renters than there are "affordable" rental homes



1 in 4 eligible low-income families receive federal rental assistance



## **46 million Americans live in poverty**

#### **TODAY'S POLICY LANDSCAPE**

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**COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING FINANCE SEQUESTER & ISSUES**: DEFICIT **REFORM &** TAX REDUCTION **CRA REFORM** REFORM Further steep cuts to Possible elimination of the Possible decreases in STAKES: affordable housing Low-Income Housing Tax private investment in **Credit and the New Market** programs, including affordable rental housing Section 8, Section 4, **Tax Credit programs HOME and CDBG** SOLUTIONS: **Build coalitions around** Launch campaign to Join coalitions to design a protecting and expanding preserve the Housing new system of housing Credit and other critical key programs finance in the U.S. programs Explore new ways to lower Develop core principals for **AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING** costs in affordable mortgage market reform housing development A Call To Invest in Our Neighborhoods

#### PROS AND CONS OF THE TAX CREDIT APPROACH



PROS	CONS
- Public-private partnership	
- "Pay-for-success" model	<ul> <li>Not designed to address the unstable incomes of poor renters</li> </ul>
- Buffer from budget cuts	<ul> <li>Adds complexity to the tax code and the housing finance system</li> </ul>
- Not a "one size fits all" approach	
	- Still subject to political risk
- Complementary with other	(unless made permanent)
rental assistance programs	
	<ul> <li>Syndication is difficult during</li> </ul>
- Third-party oversight	economic downturns (when
	taxable incomes decrease)
- Force nonprofits to build RE	
discipline and financial capacity	

#### **COMPARING THE U.S. EXPERIENCE TO CANADA**





<ul> <li>Worst housing crisis since the Great</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Relatively stable housing market over</li></ul>
Depression	the past decade
<ul> <li>History of strong federal support to</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Affordable housing traditionally a</li></ul>
affordable housing	senior government responsibility
<ul> <li>Banks required to invest in local</li></ul>	<ul> <li>No such requirement for financial</li></ul>
community development (CRA)	institutions
<ul> <li>Tax deduction on mortgage interest</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Tax deduction for mortgage interest</li></ul>
for owner-occupants	on rental properties, property gains, etc

#### Similar challenges to affordable housing development :

- High development costs, especially in large cities
- Small social/public housing portfolio relative to need
- Reductions in federal housing expenditures

## Some helpful references

 Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University

http://www.jchs.harvard.edu

- Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. http://www.enterprisecommunity.org
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit Investment Survey by Ernst & Young. Oct 2009
- Housing for All Americans, 2011 Report. Henley Wood



#### High Point, Seattle WA

A Case Study in affordable housing finance



#### High Point as WWII defense workers housing

The original homes at High Point were built in 1942 using funds provided by the Lanham Act. The housing was designed to meet the needs of defense workers who first used it.



#### **High Point as Public Housing**

Seattle Housing Authority acquired title to High Point in 1953 after it was no longer used to house defense workers. It was obtained at no cost under the Lanham Act.



## Sixty Years Later -- High Point as one of Seattle's most distressed communities

Public housing units at High Point had been in use for more than 60 years by the time demolition began in 2003.



#### **Building a Community Vision**

Residents and other community members were involved in redevelopment planning. Many took part in workshops that considered what the new High Point would look like.



#### Transformation – Rental Housing, Phase I

Construction of Phase I rental housing began in 2004. Families began moving into the first completed units the following year.



#### Transformation – For Sale Homes, Phase I

For-sale home construction in Phase I began in 2005. Families began moving into the first completed units the following year.



#### **Open Space and Urban Agriculture**

Open space was a focus of High Point planning. The neighborhood has more than 20 acres of open space in many forms, including parks, playgrounds, trails, and this market garden.



#### **An Environmentally Sensitive Community**

Porous pavement and vegetated swales are two components of High Point's natural drainage system. The system improves water quality, protects salmon habitat, and allows the built environment to more closely mimic drainage in nature.



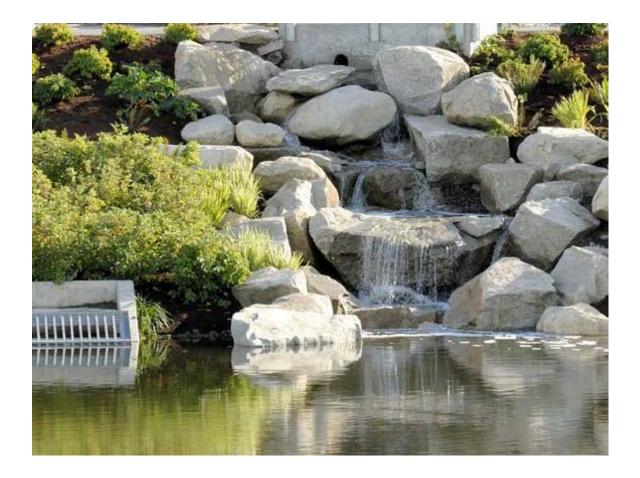
#### A Livable, Mixed-Income Community

The construction of rental homes, like the beautiful homes seen here, was completed in 2010.



#### A Neighborhood Transformed

As a result of a decade-long redevelopment, High Point has grown to include hundreds of affordable and market-rate units with a final build-out capacity of approximately 1,700 units.



#### A Tribute to the Environment

Instead of polluted runoff, High Point's natural drainage system now provides treated water for Longfellow Creek, a four mile-long creek system running through West Seattle. The right-of-way drainage system attenuates storm events and filters out contaminants to help enhance the creek as a functioning ecosystem



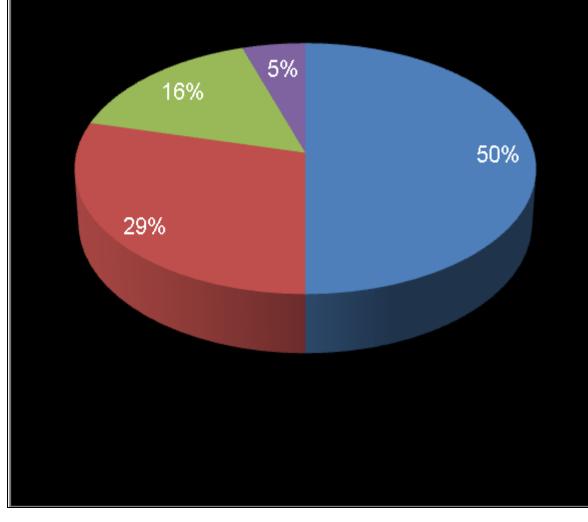
#### A Tribute to our Future

In addition, the land has been returned to the city's property tax rolls, where it will generate revenues to help keep the neighborhood economically self-sufficient for a long time to come.

Housing type	Income Category	Units
For-sale housing	Market rate	790
Public housing	Very low income	350
Affordable rental housing	Low income	250
Senior housing	Market rate	160
Senior housing	Very low income	75
Affordable for-sale housing	Low income	56
Units of on-site housing		1,681

#### **Housing Mix in High Point**

Proceeds from the land and home sales have helped fund low-income housing in the neighborhood and elsewhere. In addition, the land has been returned to the city's property tax rolls, where it can generate revenues to help keep the neighborhood economically self-sufficient.

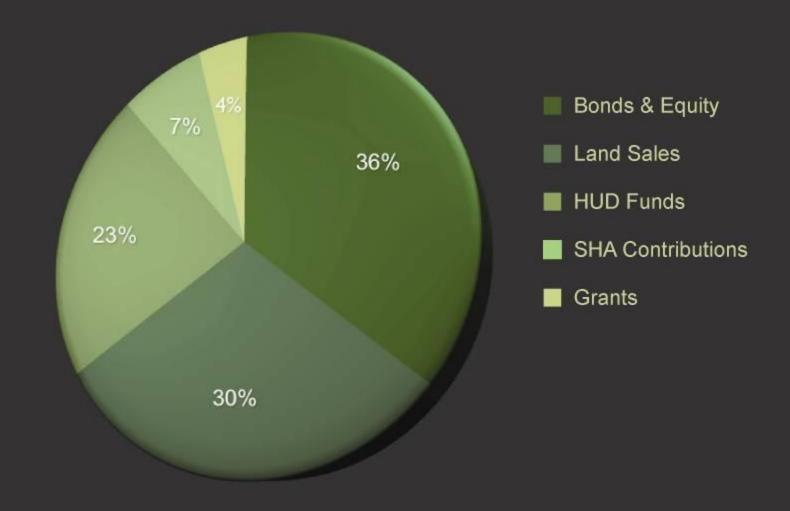


#### Market rate home ownership & rental units

Rental units available to households earning 30% of median income or less

Rental units available to households earning 60% of median income or less

Homeownership units available to households earning 80% of median income or less



### Sources of Financing at High Point







