

+ Addressing the housing crisis through innovation and local insights: Premio HOME

Premio HOME, launched in 2024 by the [UnidosUS HOME Initiative](#), is a national grant competition that elevates and invests in community-based organizations advancing innovative, scalable solutions to increase the supply of affordable homes for first-time homebuyers. These solutions span a range of approaches, projects, programs and initiatives, including:

- New construction and design.
- Innovative ownership models.
- Climate resilience efforts.

UnidosUS's efforts and investments showcase how community-driven practices are addressing the nation's housing crisis, especially in the supply of affordable homes, with creativity and localized insights. With **\$1.1 million invested**, 18 organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico are setting a new standard for community-led housing innovations.

Map of the 18 funded organizations in the United States and Puerto Rico



Scalable housing solutions



1. Comité de Bien Estar San Luis, AZ

For more than 40 years, Comité de Bien Estar focused on building Latino economic power through upstream solutions, including affordable homes and social services. It's how they recognized the need for solar panels, and UnidosUS's Premio HOME grant proved a natural progression of this momentum.

The organization now powers Latino families with solar panels that reduce

energy costs by 50%-100% and boost homeownership affordability. This project selected **10 Latino families** to participate in the solar panel project. Comité not only focuses on building affordable housing but also on addressing the need on climate resiliency and homeownership well-being. In 2024, Comité built nearly 100 affordable housing units. Today, Comité is in the process of developing a new 173-lot subdivision and a new 7.8-acre project with 54 multifamily units of multifamily and 23 townhomes.

2. East LA Community Corporation Los Angeles, CA

Resident-based homeownership models, led by East LA Community Corp. and Office of: Office, address the critical need to increase affordable homeownership opportunities for Latino families facing economic pressures and increased housing costs as a result of gentrification. Through community outreach, policy analysis and legal research, both organizations identified viable strategies, including accessory dwelling units, lot splits and shared ownership models that can expand housing supply on existing properties. Educational materials and legal tools also empower residents and support homeownership pathways tailored to their needs. These efforts aim to build generational wealth, stabilize neighborhoods and combat displacement in a historically marginalized community.





3. Hacienda Community Development Corporation Portland, OR

Hacienda Community Development Corp.'s **Mass Casitas** project creates scalable, high-quality modular affordable homes using innovative mass timber construction. Supported by the Premio HOME grant, the project developed **six prototype units** across diverse climate zones and conducted extensive market analysis, architectural

redesign and environmental performance evaluations. These homes provide stable, affordable homes to low-income, disabled and wildfire-displaced individuals statewide. Energy efficiency and indoor air quality assessments show the units outperform standard homes, ensuring comfort and sustainability. This pilot demonstrates a promising model for expanding equitable homeownership opportunities and resilient housing solutions for vulnerable populations.

4. Durham Community Land Trustees Durham, NC

Durham Community Land Trustees expands affordable homeownership opportunities through **COMPRAR Home: Pathway to Affordable Homeownership**, a program that focuses on supporting Durham's Hispanic and Spanish-speaking communities. This bilingual education series connects participants to down payment assistance, trusted lenders and culturally relevant resources to build a sustainable homebuyer pipeline. Meanwhile, DCLT advances modular housing designs that lower construction costs while maintaining quality and sustainability, preparing to deliver new affordable homes. So far, **36 households** have received homebuyer counseling, and construction is underway on additional units to meet growing demand. This project addresses systemic barriers and promotes long-term housing stability in Durham's rapidly evolving neighborhoods.





5. Mission Economic Development Agency San Francisco, CA

Mission Economic Development Agency MEDA's **Housing Opportunities Program** focuses on expanding affordable homeownership, particularly for educators and underserved communities. With support from Premio HOME, HOP cohosted 24 bilingual workshops reaching more than 700 participants, resulting in **62 successful home purchases**.

The project faced a major funding setback when New Market Tax Credit eligibility was lost, creating a \$15 million financing gap, which MEDA is addressing through additional funding applications and cost-reduction strategies. Income eligibility requirements were lowered to increase accessibility for educator households, as MEDA continues advancing development of 63 affordable homes.

6. The Resurrection Project Chicago, IL

The Resurrection Project TRP is advancing affordable homeownership in Chicago's **Back of the Yards** neighborhood through its "Reclaiming Back of the Yards" initiative. With support from UnidosUS and Premio HOME, TRP **staged a model home** and hosted community events including financial workshops and counseling sessions, engaging dozens of residents. In May 2024, the Chicago City Council allocated 206 vacant lots in Back of the Yards to TRP, enabling the development of new affordable homes. These efforts are creating pathways to homeownership and generational wealth for families on Chicago's South and West Sides.





7. cdc**b** come dream. come build. Rio Grande Valley, TX

cdcb | come dream. come build. expanded **DreamBuild**, a modular affordable housing production program, operations into Corpus Christi and the surrounding Coastal Bend area. Despite staff turnover causing some initial delays, CDCB finalized contracts to operate the Nueces County Colonia Self-Help Center and administer down payment

assistance to at least **12 low-to-moderate-income first-time homebuyers**. The team increased outreach efforts with new hires, hosted a Corpus Christi office ribbon cutting in February 2025, and saw a significant rise in housing applications afterward. **DreamBuild produced 12 units** in the past year and is on track to complete **110 more units** by the end of 2026, while also working to replicate its affordable housing model in other states.

8. CoNorth St. Paul, MN

CoNorth (formerly Northcountry Cooperative Foundation) launched **CoNorth Homes**, an in-house manufactured home dealership that expands Latino homeownership in Minnesota's resident-owned manufactured home communities. This model allows greater control over home specifications, including energy efficiency and cultural relevance, while streamlining financing and placement. Alongside this, CoNorth introduced the **Prime Path loan program**, the state's first manufactured home-specific financing product, and a tailored homeownership education course. To date, CoNorth has assisted over **30 Latino households** and has **six homes** actively in the placement pipeline. These efforts position CoNorth to significantly scale homeownership opportunities, with plans to place **90 homes** over the next two years, exceeding initial goals.





9. VIA Community Development Corporation Milwaukee, WI

VIA Community Development Corporation completed and sold its first new construction home on Oct. 31, 2024, to a first-time homebuyer household including a female head of household. Since then, VIA began construction on **10 additional homes**, with 5 expected to be completed by January 2025 and five by April 2025 — all targeted at **early childhood educators** earning \$12-\$24 per hour. These 1,100-square-foot homes feature three bedrooms, one bathroom and expansion-ready basements to accommodate growing families affordably. VIA has increased its production capacity from 3-5 homes to 8-10 homes annually, achieved cost savings by becoming a licensed general contractor, developing in-house home designs and forming strong subcontractor partnerships. Despite challenges related to lot acquisition, tight scattered sites and excavation of previous foundations, VIA has gained valuable experience to improve future construction