HOME SUCCESS STORY

City of Burlington

The City of Burlington, located in the Piedmont Triad of North Carolina, is dedicated to providing high-quality municipal services to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.

The city receives HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds through a consortium with the City of Greensboro, Guilford County, and Alamance County, and it manages Alamance County’s allocation on its behalf. Burlington primarily uses HOME to fund its deferred-loan housing rehabilitation program for low- and moderate-income residents in the city and Alamance County. It also partners with two Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), Habitat for Humanity of Alamance County and Alamance County Community Services Agency, to build affordable housing in the community.

The Harris Family

Like other cities across the nation, Burlington, North Carolina has long struggled to provide access to safe, decent, and affordable housing for its low-income residents. In recent years, however, this has become more difficult; real incomes in Burlington decreased by more than five percent between 2000 and 2010, while home values increased by 4.4 percent and rent increased by 2.9 percent. As a result, Burlington households must spend more money on housing, but are making less of it.

This was certainly the case for Ms. Jasmine Harris. Although she always wanted to become a homeowner, her very low income—earning just 50 percent of the area median income—shut her out of the conventional mortgage market.

Thanks to a $15,000, HOME-financed second mortgage and the city’s partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Alamance County, Ms. Harris’ dream of homeownership will become a reality in late 2015. Without HOME, Ms. Harris would not have been able to afford her new $97,000 home and Habitat for Humanity of Alamance County would not have the financial support it needs to continue to develop affordable housing in the community.

Through the program, Ms. Harris has learned how to save money, be financially responsible, and work hard for what she wants. She says that this experience has given her a new hope for her future.

“This looks like a great community. This area has come a long way and I’m excited to see where it goes. I have two kids and they will love having a playground right here!”