

Priority # 3

ADVOCATE

HABC will advocate for long-term sustainability and redevelopment of public housing to successfully provide affordable housing opportunities over time.

These advocacy strategies will seek out federal, state, and local policy changes that will ensure sustainability for HABC operations, supportive services for residents, and increase affordable housing options. Dedicated funding of supportive services, investment in strategic neighborhoods, and the recruitment of networks of “champions” to support affordable housing and community development activities in Baltimore will form the base of HABC’s advocacy strategies.



Current Reality:

HABC has historically focused inwards on its developments and/or residents. Long-term sustainability, however, requires HABC to form strategic and innovative partnerships to remain successful over time.

Objective
3.1 **Advocate for Federal, State and Local Policy Changes to Sustain HABC Operations, Provide Supportive Services for Clients and Increase Affordable Housing Options**

- Strategies**
- 1 Advocate for dedicated affordable housing funding (set asides) from the State of Maryland
 - 2 Advocate for the award of bonus points for State of Maryland funding applications/ transactions located in urban redevelopment districts, approved RAD awards and/or transformation planning areas (both CN and non-CN-funded)
 - 3 Form a coalition with the city and developers to jointly press for policy changes
 - 4 Advocate for legislation favorable to affordable housing (e.g. state-wide legislation on Source of Income Discrimination, landlord discrimination or incentives in opportunity neighborhoods)
 - 5 Advocate for affordable housing ordinances to encourage and incentivize private developers to integrate public housing replacement and other affordable housing into their communities in thriving neighborhoods

- Success Measures**
- Amount of dedicated affordable housing funds in city and state budgets
 - Change to Qualified Application Plan supportive of HABC-involved redevelopments
 - New affordable housing ordinances adopted by Baltimore City Council
 - Coalitions that includes HABC as key member

Timeline Year 1 - 10

Objective
3.2 **Advocate for Dedicated Supportive Services Financing**

- Strategies**
- 1 Introduce supportive services as a standard line-item in all City and State budget requests
 - 2 Earmark dedicated line-item in HABC budgets for supportive services
 - 3 Develop strategies to maximize participation of HABC residents in free education at Baltimore City Community College
 - 4 Advocate for flexibility in funding for related causes (e.g. mental health funding = housing funding; crime and violence funding = supportive services funding)

- Success Measures**
- Amount of funding dedicated to supportive services
 - Resident-Community College enrollment and retention strategy

Timeline Year 1 - 2

Objective 3.3 Advocate for Focused Baltimore City Investments in Neighborhoods that Dually Align with HABC Priorities and Baltimore City Economic and Community Revitalization Efforts

- Strategies**
- 1 Request dedicated annual allocation from the Mayor’s Neighborhood Revitalization Fund
 - 2 Work with the Baltimore City and State of MD to determine optimal ways to leverage the Opportunity Zone designation

- Success Measures**
- Number of HABC-supported projects included in Mayor and Baltimore City Council’s priorities
 - Amount of dedicated funding allocated by the Mayor and Baltimore City Council

Timeline Year 1- 2

Objective 3.4 Recruit and Build a Network of Local and Regional “Champions” that Support Housing and Community Development Initiatives for Baltimore City

- Strategies**
- 1 Establish partnership network to include businesses, educators, foundations, civic institutions, residents and others to advocate for specific projects, funding, legislation, policy changes and other opportunities in support of HABC’s strategic plan priorities
 - 2 Recruit and support residents to advocate for their own programs and needs
 - 3 Ensure that resident voices are heard in HABC-led advocacy efforts

- Success Measures**
- Number of committed partners
 - Creation of Partnership network
 - Number of residents involved in advocacy efforts

Timeline Year 1- 2

