



Seattle Housing Authority 2023 Highlights

The [Seattle Housing Authority](#) served 38,000 people with low incomes in 2023, providing safe, stable housing and services that foster self-sufficiency, better health, improved education and other opportunities for residents and voucher participants to improve their lives. We thank our many partners and offer a few 2023 highlights.

- **Take bold action for race and social justice equity**

Advanced the creation of a new Strategic Plan through a process with a [race and social justice](#) framework at its core. Launched a Reintegration Housing Pilot, in partnership with the Black Prisoners' Caucus Community Group and other stakeholders, to provide housing stability for justice-involved individuals. Provided extensive RSJ learning opportunities and resources for staff and tenants.

- **Create more affordable housing**

Completed construction, opened and fully leased [Salish Landing](#) in West Seattle on the former site of the Lam Bow Apartments, which were destroyed by fire in 2016. The 82-unit five-story building adds 31 more units of affordable housing than were previously on the site. Former residents who were relocated elsewhere after the fire were invited to return as residents, along with residents new to the community.

- **Fulfill the Yesler Promise**

Neared completion of 114 units at Sawara, SHA's sixth new residential building at Yesler, and began construction of Juniper with 114 units, which will complete SHA's commitment to replace all of the 561 units of original housing, along with adding nearly 1,200 more units of affordable housing and approximately 3,000 units of other housing. Celebrated with development partners Seattle Chinatown International District PDA and Community Roots the opening of [13th & Fir](#), with 156 units, including larger family-sized apartments. SHA provided the land and \$11 million toward development.

- **Reduce homelessness in our community**

SHA received funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing vouchers to 71 additional youth who have aged out of foster care, a time they are at extreme risk of homelessness.

- **Diversify housing choice for families with children**

[SHA received \\$1,075,200 from HUD](#) to expand neighborhood choices for more families with young children being served by SHA.

◉ Expand digital equity

Supported SHA tenants with free laptops, affordable connectivity and digital skills training. Partnered with the City of Seattle to install Affordable for All internet in SHA computer labs. Contracted with PCs for People to install free in-unit Wi-Fi in eight SHA buildings with high populations of Black, Indigenous and People of Color residents. [Hosted HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge](#), Federal Communications Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell, and other national and regional leaders for a roundtable discussion on digital equity.

◉ Empower people economically

[SHA's Job Link program](#) helped more than 600 tenants with career coaching, education and training, securing jobs, starting small businesses, and building financial wellness and setting financial goals, including homeownership.

◉ Remove the cost burden of transit

Partnered with the City of Seattle to provide free unlimited-use [ORCA cards to all SHA residents](#). In 2023, more than 6,500 tenants enrolled, taking more than 30,000 trips per month.

◉ Support youth achievement

Restructured and expanded [SHA's Education and Youth Development](#) team, to strengthen and increase engagement with schools, families and communities and provide services and opportunities for youth to thrive academically and socially. [The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) recognized SHA in its Public Housing Communities Honor Roll for demonstrating leadership and depth and breadth of contributions supporting children.

◉ Advance affordable housing policy

Worked at the city, county, state and federal levels to educate elected officials and policymakers on the need for and benefits of increased affordable housing and tenant services, resulting in new legislation that benefits low-income families across the country. Aided in the formation and historic passage of the Covenant Homeownership Act of 2023.

◉ Ensure financial stability

Secured SHA's financial position by maintaining a top Standard & Poor's AA rating and was awarded the [Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting](#), marking the 26th consecutive year that SHA has received this award.

◉ Be an innovative leader

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials honored SHA with [five 2023 Awards of Merit](#) for Innovative Administration for an Advocacy Mapping Tool, CodeRED Tenant Alert System, Emergency Housing Vouchers Implementation, Housing Choice Voucher Housing Quality Standards COVID-19 Recovery Plan and Yesler Arts Program.