



FLORIDA HOMETOWN HERO HOUSING PROGRAM



FloridaRealtors
The Voice for Real Estate® in Florida

Florida is facing a housing crisis, and more and more hometown heroes like police officers, firefighters, teachers, and nurses find themselves unable to buy a home. Florida Realtors has always advocated for affordable housing policies, and now we are pushing for a new program that will

provide critical housing relief to these essential members of our communities. The Hometown Hero Housing Program would make housing affordable for these heroes by providing down payment and closing cost assistance to eligible workers and educators.

THE CHALLENGE

In 2021, the median price of a home in Florida was \$355,000, up 18.3% from one year earlier — and a staggering 81.1% more than just five years before. Yet household income isn't rising at nearly the same pace.

The challenge of affording a home is even greater for many workers and educators, whose salaries often fall well below the amount needed to buy a home.

To afford a median-priced home, Floridians would need to earn about \$62,000 per year. But average salaries for many Hometown Heroes fall short, for example:



Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics ————— \$33,660



Licensed Practical Nurses ————— \$46,290



Firefighters ————— \$49,870



Elementary School Teachers ————— \$56,540



Middle School Teachers ————— \$57,280

THE SOLUTION

Florida Realtors is advocating for the Hometown Hero Housing Program, which would complement — not take away from — existing efforts to increase homeownership opportunities for low-income Floridians. The program would parallel the existing Salute Our Soldiers Military Loan Program, which has successfully helped hundreds of veterans and active-duty military personnel buy a home.

If approved by lawmakers, the program would reduce the upfront costs for first-time home buyers by providing zero-interest loans to help with down payment and closing costs. The loans could provide up to 5% of the purchase price, not to exceed \$25,000, and would be repaid in full if the buyer sells, refinances, or rents out the home.

WHO BENEFITS?

The Hometown Hero Housing Program would be available to first-time home buying families who have income of no more than 150% of the state or local median income, at the time the loan is issued. Specifically, the program would be available to workers and educators employed full time as:

- Law enforcement officers
- Certified correctional officers
- Probation officers
- 911 operators
- Firefighters
- Paramedics
- Emergency medical technicians
- Teachers
- Education administrators
- Health care professionals



FloridaRealtors[®]
The Voice for Real Estate[®] in Florida

[Learn more at FloridaRealtors.org](https://www.floridarealtors.org)

The Hometown Heroes who keep us safe, care for our families, and educate our children deserve the opportunity to live in the communities where they work. We urge lawmakers to do everything they can to help the heroes who have done so much for us.