

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
LIHTC Housing Hope Opening
October 15, 2024
Sen. Cantwell Opening Remarks

[\[AUDIO\]](#) [\[VIDEO\]](#)

Sen. Cantwell: Thank you, Donna, thank you so much. And thank you for all that Housing Hope does. I can tell you right now, our fingers might be cold, but our hearts are very warm. And that is because this project, literally, is giving us a lot of hope.

I want to say a special thanks to be here with my colleague, Rick Larsen, who's doing a great job, and really appreciate his help. I want to thank our councilmember Strom Peterson, who is here, too, and really appreciate him. Councilmember Megan Dunn, who is here, thank you so much. And Lynnwood Mayor Christine Frizzell, who says that she's going to build two projects just like this over in Lynnwood for the Lynnwood School District. So thank you, thank you so much for that. And obviously, I want to thank Pastor Tim Oleson, who we could not do this project without him. Thank you so much. Thank you.

Thank you for your caring hearts. Thank you for your words of wisdom and compassion. And if we had more people like you, we'd have more housing. So thank you so much.

I want to thank the Housing Hope team writ large, obviously the men and women who worked on this project and helped pour the foundation and put the roofs on these homes. And I also want to thank the Community Health Center of Snohomish County for their partnership with this, because as you can see, they're going to be integrated into this facility and just down the street, so that's going to be very helpful.

And the partnership, obviously, with Edmonds Lutheran Church, who is going to be building a food bank just behind us, and going to continue to build out capacity here.

So today we are celebrating 52 families, including 26 who were previously homeless, who will have a new place to call home. And this project is more than just a place to live, moving into Madrona Highlands is about also having access to education, job training – we already heard the Safeway people are like, “can anybody come over and help work for the holiday season,” and childcare development programs.

Also for the first time, Housing Hope is going to integrate healthcare services into this project. Boy, can't tell you how much that means. The highlands community room will have residents be able to visit with clinical staff, have routine physicals, accident or injury exams, and be able to get referrals to specialty care. So put simply, this is bringing hope into this community and bringing families together.

This project was made possible by \$13 million in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. This credit is the type of project that we like to see supported throughout the United States of America, because to give 52 families a new place to live and thrive is so important. And people don't understand, but we just need to build more supply in the United States of America.

A study was done that showed for every 2,337 units that you build, that in that community it reduces the annual cost of rent or housing by \$2,000. So basically, almost 2,000 to \$2,000. So if we just think

about, everybody wants to drive down the cost of housing. This affects everyone, so building more supply helps us drive down costs.

And that's why we are here today, because housing costs are a significant part of inflation. Over the last 10 years, our state has continued to grow, and that has continued to have new economic opportunities. In Snohomish County we've seen some of that growth, and we've seen the average cost of rent go up.

So what we're doing here today is helping these families, but helping the whole community in providing more supply.

The partnership, the vision, that Housing Hope, that Edmonds Lutheran Church have shown us that this is the model for dealing with the housing crisis in the state of Washington.

I'm going to do everything I can to increase the affordable housing tax credit in Washington, D.C. Rick and I are going to work together to see if we can't get that over the goal line and build more supply.

But today, I'm so glad to see Donna and Pastor Oleson, because they are the ones that brought our community together, they're the ones that are giving hope right here in South County, and they are making the lives of 52 people much, much better.

Thank you all very, very much.