

https://www.taosnews.com/news/local-news/taos-housing-partnership-awarded-250k-grant/article_dafb0c6c-a52a-5de0-9a35-ac6baf3c13bb.html

Taos Housing Partnership awarded \$250K grant

Staff report
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Courtesy photo

From left, CJ Grace, executive director of Taos Community Foundation, Lisa O'Brien, executive director of Taos Housing Partnership, and Catherine Hummel, chair of the housing partnership's board of directors, celebrate a significant cash infusion to the housing partnership on Monday (Sept. 23). The funds will allow the Taos Housing Partnership to expand its staff and roll out new programs.

Taos Housing Partnership, a local nonprofit dedicated to increasing the availability of affordable, innovative and sustainable housing in Taos County was awarded a \$250,000 grant from Anchorum Health Foundation that will allow the nascent nonprofit to expand its staff and roll out more programs to increase affordable housing options in Taos County.

The grant is the first in Anchorum's partnership with the Taos Community Foundation as part of Anchorum's broader \$25 million five-year commitment to strengthen the capacity of community foundations across Northern New Mexico, according to a press release.

"Taos Housing Partnership is thrilled to have this level of involvement from our community partners," said Lisa O'Brien, executive director of Taos Housing Partnership. "This generous support is a testament to the dedication of local leaders, elected officials, and community residents who have come together to explore solutions to our housing challenges. It empowers us to take significant steps toward addressing the housing crisis in our region."

The partnership, which obtained 501(c)(3) nonprofit status earlier this year, was established after an initial seed phase where other nonprofit organizations, local officials and community focus groups identified the critical need for an organization focused solely on developing below-market housing throughout Taos County.

"Anchorum has been a dedicated partner throughout this journey, from the initial concept stage to implementing the innovative strategies and solutions that Taos Housing Partnership is now poised to deliver," Jenny Parks, senior vice president of strategic philanthropy at Anchorum Health Foundation, said in the release. "This grant reflects our shared commitment to fostering community-driven initiatives that address pressing needs like housing affordability and accessibility."

Earlier this year, Anchorum committed to investing \$25 million over five years into five community foundations in Northern New Mexico. The housing partnership grant is the first to be awarded from the fund managed by the Taos Community Foundation.

“We are so excited about this grant to Taos Housing Partnership, and also for future grants that will strengthen the capacity of nonprofits county-wide,” said CJ Grace, CEO of Taos Community Foundation. “This grant and others that will follow from Anchorum’s multi-year investment are prime examples of how strategic partnerships can support local organizations in scaling their impact, addressing critical community needs and building a more resilient nonprofit sector in our region.”

By partnering with Taos Housing Partnership, Taos Community Foundation hopes to expand its own efforts to increase access to affordable housing. Taos Housing Partnership plans to offer homebuyer education classes, establish a downpayment assistance program, and assist with activating publicly owned sites.

Taos Housing Partnership is a nonprofit organization whose board is comprised of community leaders from public and private sectors who are dedicated to solving Taos’ significant housing challenges. Its mission is to create equitable housing opportunities for our community while preserving our culture, promoting financial literacy, and protecting our environment. Visit **taoshousingpartnership.org** to learn more.

Taos Community Foundation is dedicated to serving the unique needs of the communities of Taos and western Colfax counties by investing in philanthropic efforts to support and enrich the lives and opportunities of citizens, while protecting the environment which sustains us. Visit **taoscf.org** for more information.

Anchorum Health Foundation is dedicated to improving the conditions that have the greatest influence on the health of Northern New Mexico communities by committing its resources to strengthen community-based partners who tackle critical local issues. More information is available online at **anchorum.org**.