What is ARCH?
ARCH is a partnership of the County and East King County Cities who have joined together to assist with preserving and increasing the supply of housing for low- and moderate-income households in the region. ARCH assists member governments in developing housing policies, strategies, programs, and development regulations; coordinates the cities’ financial support to groups creating affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households; and assists people looking for affordable rental and ownership housing.

ARCH’s member governments have supported a wide range of housing created and operated by local organizations and private developers that serve individuals, families, seniors, the homeless, and persons with special needs.

ARCH Members
Beaux Arts Village  Medina
Bellevue       Mercer Island
Bothell         Newcastle
Clyde Hill       Redmond
Hunts Point   Sammamish
Issaquah         Woodinville
Kenmore       Yarrow Point
Kirkland     King County

Mission and Values
ARCH’s mission is to preserve and increase the supply of housing for low- and moderate-income households in East King County. This includes homes for individuals and families, seniors, homeless, the disabled and other persons with special needs.

ARCH’s efforts reinforce community values such as providing housing that creates stability in personal lives, family, and neighborhood; facilitating a variety of solutions appropriate for each city; and enabling people to live near work or family.

ARCH acts as a resource to community leaders and policymakers, giving them objective information and tools to carry out housing goals in their communities.

The ARCH Training Course Textbook
(Housing 101 available at www.archhousing/housing101.htm)
One of the tools made available to community leaders
ARCH Assists its members to:

Directly assist the creation of below-market rate housing
- Through the ARCH Housing Trust Fund, awarding loans and grants to developments that include below-market rate housing
- Waiving impact and permit fees
- Making surplus public land available

Develop housing policies and regulations including:
- Policies and strategies in Land Use and Housing Elements of Comprehensive Plans and Neighborhood Plans
- Regulations to accommodate special forms of housing such as accessory dwelling units (mother-in-law apartments), senior housing and cottage housing
- Land use incentives that create below-market rate housing within market-rate developments

Implement and administer housing programs by:
- Preparing and monitoring contracts for funded projects so affordability is maintained and, if applicable, loan payments are made
- Preparing and administering contracts for below-market rate housing in market rate developments
- Assisting people looking for below-market ownership and rental housing
- Tracking local housing production and housing needs

Engage the broader community on local housing issues
- Participating in discussions about housing at meetings and public forums
- Generating educational information for the public including brochures, website, housing tours and other material
- Providing trainings on housing topics
- Making community awards to publicly recognize outstanding housing efforts

Outcomes

Examples of results of member jurisdictions’ efforts include:
- Through the ARCH Trust Fund, cities have provided over $63 million to help create over 3,600 units of affordable housing for individuals, families, seniors, the homeless, and persons with special needs. This has included preservation of over 590 privately owned federally assisted housing units.
- Twelve members have adopted regulations permitting Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) which has resulted in the permitting of over 500 ADUs.
- Ten members have implemented land use incentive programs for affordable housing resulting in over 600 market-produced affordable units.
- Seven members have made surplus public property available for housing developments that include over 630 affordable housing units.

AWARDS

PROJECTS
Governor’s Smart Community Award
- YWCA Issaquah Family Village, 2009
- Greenbrier Heights, Woodinville, 2006

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Vision 2040 Awards
- South Kirkland TOD, 2015
- YWCA Family Village at Issaquah, 2013

Vision 2020 Awards
- Redmond Coast Guard Site, 2005
- Greenbrier Heights, Woodinville, 2004
- Talus, Issaquah, 2003

NAHRO Award of Excellence in Program Innovation, Village at Overlake Station, Redmond, 2006

ARCH
- HDC Municipal Champion Award, 2018
- Innovations in American Government Award in Affordable Housing, 2004
- HUD Secretary’s Opportunity and Empowerment Award, 1999 (Awarded by APA / HUD)