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Promoting affordable housing to ensure healthy and stable communities.

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Utah Housing Coalition Celebrates Manufactured Housing Week

Salt Lake City, UT - This week, National Manufactured Housing Week, Utah Housing Coalition is dispelling myths and opening the doors of homeownership to all income levels in America, by improving housing in a previously ignored sector—manufactured homes. Utah Housing Coalition has been working for over three years to help manufactured home residents in Utah by partnering with other non-profit organizations in addressing the issues in manufactured home communities, like park closures, educating the community about the benefits of this type of unsubsidized affordable housing, working with manufactured home owners in protecting their home and rights, and working on public policy changes to help preserve these communities.

Manufactured housing is a significant source of affordable housing that opens the doors to homeownership for families, who in many of the nation's housing markets, cannot afford to buy a site-built home. Utah Housing Coalition is part of a national initiative, [Innovations in Manufactured Homes \(I'M HOME\)](#), which seeks to ensure that the more than 17 million Americans living in manufactured homes can reap the same benefits of homeownership as families who buy other kinds of homes. I'M HOME supports programs, like Utah Housing Coalition across the country that are helping families who choose manufactured homes make sure these are good investments.

Utah Housing Coalition has been heavily involved in the past year in outreach with the organization's members and the community at large about the benefits of manufactured housing through monthly updates, newsletter, seminars, and public policy work at the state and local level. Utah Housing Coalition's top priority is to help enact a statutory framework in providing manufactured home owners an opportunity to purchase the community when it goes for sale. In Utah, most manufactured homes sit on leased land. Such dual property right balance can be challenging at times. The biggest threat to a manufactured home community is change of use resulting in closure and relocation of homeowners. "We want to present to our lawmakers, the best and most feasible public policy change that will allow manufactured communities' preservation," said Francisca Blanc, Policy Analyst, Utah Housing Coalition. "Resident-owned communities are one of the preservation methods. Having a notice of park for sale, negotiation in good faith, and a tax incentive for park owners to sell to residents, are key elements to start building the legal framework for preservation," Blanc continued.

Now in its fifth year, I'M HOME is working across the nation with over 30 community partners developing attractive new housing and replacing dilapidated homes; changing the way manufactured homes are financed; working with families who live in "parks," where there are special challenges; and working with policymakers to make sure the same benefits and protections are available to everyone who buys a home, regardless of how it's built.

"Manufactured homes not only provide long-term, lower-cost housing, but they can also help build financial security for millions of families through ownership," said Kathryn Gwatkin Goulding, the Director of I'M HOME.

“Manufactured Housing Week is an opportunity to bring awareness across the country that there is a great opportunity to create better quality, better financed housing in this very large market.”

In partnership with I’M HOME, the National Consumer Law Center has been working to develop and advance a local, state and federal policy agenda that addresses obstacles in the manufactured housing industry, supports the preservation and expansion of affordable housing through quality manufactured housing, and promotes asset building. Manufactured housing policy analysis and other resources from the National Consumer Law Center are available at www.nclc.org/issues/mobile_homes/index.shtml

For more information on Utah Housing Coalition please visit www.utahhousing.org For more information on the I’M HOME Initiative, please visit www.cfed.org/go/imhome.

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Utah Housing Coalition

The mission of the Utah Housing Coalition is to be the leader in housing issues and to promote the increase of accessible, affordable housing statewide. We will achieve our mission through education, advocacy, and cooperative partnerships. Utah Housing Coalition is a member of the I’M HOME network.

I’m HOME is an initiative of the [Corporation for Enterprise Development](http://www.cfed.org). CFED expands economic opportunity by helping Americans and their children build assets, save for the future, start and grow businesses, pursue education and become homeowners. We identify, refine and help realize good ideas and develop partnerships to promote lasting change. We bring together community practice, public policy and private markets in new and effective ways to achieve greater economic impact. Established in 1979 as the Corporation for Enterprise Development, CFED works nationally and internationally through its offices in Washington, DC; Durham, North Carolina; and San Francisco, California.