

Four Corners Housing Summit

One Region. Many Voices. Moving Forward Together.

Thursday, September 10 | San Juan College

111

PARTICIPANTS

5

PRIORITY CHALLENGES

Executive Summary

The September 10 Four Corners Housing Summit convened 111 participants from across San Juan County and the Four Corners region to move shared housing concerns toward coordinated action. Hosted by the 100% San Juan Initiative and Tres Rios Habitat for Humanity, with support from community partners, the Summit brought together residents, housing providers, nonprofits, local governments, health care partners, lenders, funders, and regional leaders.

Participants identified five interconnected housing priorities: increased access to funding; more affordable and accessible housing; fewer barriers to housing assistance; solutions to land, infrastructure, and development-cost challenges; and stronger coordination, resource information, and data. The day also generated practical next steps, including a shared housing-resource matrix, improved navigation and financial-literacy supports, land and infrastructure inventories, stronger regional collaboration, and coordinated advocacy for housing investment.

The Summit met its central goals of identifying local challenges and assets, bringing multiple perspectives together, identifying strategies and partnerships, and establishing a clearer path for continued work. The **Listen First Project Social Cohesion Impact Measurement Tool** also indicated a meaningful positive impact: participants reported stronger connection, greater openness to different perspectives, and increased confidence that the region can work together on housing solutions.

The Summit was not an endpoint. It created a stronger shared starting point for regional housing work—and an invitation for every person, organization, coalition, and policymaker to help move solutions forward.

Purpose

The September 10 Four Corners Housing Summit was planned and hosted in partnership with the 100% San Juan Initiative and Tres Rios Habitat for Humanity, with support from community partners. It brought together housing providers, community leaders, local government, nonprofits, and other partners to better understand San Juan County's housing challenges, strengthen collaboration, and identify practical solutions.

The Summit drew 111 participants and focused on moving shared housing priorities toward action.

Summit Goals Achieved

The Four Corners Housing Summit was designed to move the region from shared concern toward shared action. Based on participant discussion, panel presentations, table work, survey feedback, and the priorities identified during the day, the Summit met its intended goals:

Identify priority housing challenges, assets, and gaps. Participants identified five connected priority areas: funding access; affordable and accessible housing; barriers to housing assistance; land, infrastructure, and development costs; and the need for stronger coordination, resource information, and data.

Hear and compare diverse housing perspectives. The Summit brought together tribal, local government, nonprofit, health care, housing, lending, regional, and funding perspectives. Participants heard from local and regional leaders and had opportunities to connect the day's information to the realities facing San Juan County and the broader Four Corners region.

Identify strategies, partnerships, and models that can be strengthened locally. Participants identified practical next steps, including a shared housing-resource matrix, stronger coordination among housing partners, improved navigation of housing assistance and financial-literacy resources, advocacy for additional funding, better data collection, and an inventory of buildable land and infrastructure needs.

Clarify who is needed to carry the work forward. The Summit helped identify the importance of continued collaboration among 100% San Juan, RCAC, the HOME Coalition, San Juan County, local governments, housing providers, funders, nonprofits, health care partners, and community residents.

Leave with a shared direction and follow-up path. While further work is needed to identify specific owners and timelines for each priority, participants left with a clearer shared understanding of the challenges, stronger relationships across sectors, and a foundation for coordinated follow-up action.

The Summit was not an endpoint. It created a stronger shared starting point for regional housing work.

What Participants Identified

PRIORITY CHALLENGE	WHAT PARTICIPANTS IDENTIFIED
Funding access	More funding is needed, along with easier access to state, federal, and local funding sources.
Affordable and accessible housing	The region needs more affordable rentals, homeownership opportunities, rehabilitated housing, and accessible housing options.
Barriers to housing assistance	Eligibility requirements, benefit rules, waitlists, navigation challenges, and financial literacy can prevent residents from accessing available help.
Land, infrastructure, and development costs	Buildable land, utilities, sewer access, zoning, geography, and construction costs limit housing development.
Coordination, information, and data	Participants called for better housing and homelessness data, clearer resource information, and stronger regional coordination.

Potential Actions Identified by Participants

- Stronger regional coordination among housing partners
- A shared and maintained housing-resource matrix
- Identifying and advocating for additional funding
- Improving financial literacy and navigation of housing benefits
- Inventorying potentially buildable parcels and infrastructure needs
- Strengthening collaboration among housing partners
- Improving community awareness of available resources
- Gathering better data to guide housing planning

Summit Outcome: Stronger Connection and Shared Capacity

The **Listen First Project Social Cohesion Impact Measurement Tool** was used before and after the Summit to understand whether the gathering strengthened the relationships and conditions that help communities work together.

The results show that the Summit had a meaningful positive impact. Participants reported stronger feelings of connection and belonging, greater openness to different perspectives, and increased confidence that people in the region can work together to move housing solutions forward.

That matters because housing challenges cannot be solved by any one organization, agency, or community alone. The Summit helped build the trust, shared understanding, relationships, and sense of shared responsibility needed for sustained regional action. In short, participants left not only with ideas, but with a stronger foundation for working together—and evidence that this kind of convening is making a difference.

From Conversation to Action

100% San Juan will work with RCAC, the HOME Coalition, San Juan County, and other housing partners to review participant feedback and identify the strongest themes, priorities, potential leaders, and practical follow-up actions.

The goal is to carry the momentum of the Summit into ongoing regional work: strengthening connections among housing partners, improving access to clear information and resources, advancing shared priorities, and identifying opportunities for coordinated advocacy and investment. The Summit was designed as a starting point for action—not a stand-alone event—and the next phase is to turn the ideas raised during the day into visible progress.

A Call to Action: There Is a Role for Everyone

Lasting housing change happens at more than one level. The Summit showed that San Juan County and the Four Corners region have people, organizations, and ideas ready to move forward. The next step is for each of us to choose a place to begin.

**Level 01:
Individual**

Change starts with you. Learn about local housing challenges and resources. Share accurate information with neighbors, colleagues, and family members. Listen to the experiences of people struggling to find or keep stable housing.

**Level 02:
Interpersonal**

Change grows in conversation. Start conversations. Invite others to talk about housing, share resources, and identify what families, workers, elders, and young people are experiencing in our communities.

**Level 03:
Organizational**

Change takes root in institutions. Ask your workplace, agency, school, faith community, business, or nonprofit how it can support housing solutions. Organizations can adopt promising practices, improve navigation and referrals, partner with housing providers, or make housing a more visible part of their work.

**Level 04:
Community**

Change scales through coalitions. Join and strengthen the partnerships already forming. Bring residents, service providers, employers, local leaders, and community organizations together to share information, align efforts, and move priority actions forward.

**Level 05:
Policy**

Change lasts when systems shift. Use data, stories, and respectful dialogue to engage city, county, tribal, state, and federal decision-makers. Advocate for the funding, land-use decisions, infrastructure, services, and housing policies needed to create safe, stable, and affordable homes.

Choose Your Level. Take One Next Step. Stay Connected.

Progress will come through many actions—small and large—linked by a shared commitment to ensuring that every person and family in our region has a safe, stable place to call home.

Summit Reach and Community Support

The final Summit presentation was distributed to all registrants, including those unable to attend. The event also received local media coverage from the *Tri-City Record*, and unused lunches were donated to a local homeless shelter.

We are deeply grateful to Suzanne Anarde-Devenport of the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) for serving as the Summit's keynote speaker, and to the RCAC team for providing outstanding facilitation that helped create an engaging, inclusive, and action-oriented conversation. RCAC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

The Summit was supported by 100% NM and the Anchorum Health Foundation. San Juan College contributed important in-kind support by providing meeting space for the gathering.

With Gratitude to Our Summit Partners

**100% San Juan Initiative • Tres Rios Habitat for Humanity • RCAC • HOME Coalition •
Anchorum Health Foundation • San Juan College • Community Partners**

One Region. Many Voices. The Work Continues—Together.