

RCHF Frequently Asked Questions

*** How long does it take to process the application?**

By mail within 30 days.

*** Can you help complete the application?**

Due to a large volume of applications, we encourage you to ask a trusted friend, family member or social worker to help you. If you have a unique situation, write, and explain it on the additional information sheet included this application.

*** Can I use child support income?**

Yes, you can.

*** If I'm a caretaker for someone (other than my child or parent), can I count their SSI/Disability as income?**

Only if you are the trustee and the person with the income lives in the household

*** Is self employment an acceptable source of income?**

Yes, it must be consistent for 2 years and have 2 years filed tax returns, including profit and loss Schedule C form.

*** Do you build in Nashville or Cannon County?**

No. Nashville has a Habitat office and unfortunately Cannon County does not have a Habitat.

*** Do you require a credit score?**

Yes. We require a 620 credit score for the Legacy Pointe builds. Some other locations do not require a credit score.

*** Am I required to attend Homebuyer classes?**

Yes, once you are accepted into the Program. You will be required to complete all Homebuyer Education classes.

*** Do I have to be a US Citizen?**

You must be a US Citizen or have been granted 'permanent residency' status for at least 2 years. Documentation for either status is required.

*** What if my siblings/ nieces/ nephews /cousins live with me, will you build an extra bedroom for him/her?**

If you have legal custody, yes. If you do not have legal custody, no.

*** How many bedrooms will I receive?**

Our standards are 2 children per bedroom & children of the opposite sex do not share bedrooms. For example: a family with 2 boys & 1 girl would receive a 3 bedroom: 1 for parent(s), 1 for the girl, & 1 for boys.

*** Can I choose where I want to live?**

In subdivisions, no, lots will be assigned to homeowners. In infill lots, yes, you may choose only from our list. If you decline a lot twice, you will be deselected from the program.

*** Can I find my own land or lot ?**

No. Our organization finds and purchases the land where we build.

*** If I have my own land, will you build on it?**

Once accepted into the program, if you own the land in Rutherford County, you must agree to pay for surveys and any other associated fees to determine if the land is buildable. If so, you will be required to deed your land to Habitat. Once the home is build and ready to purchase, the property (land & house) will be deeded to you.

*** If I have a felony, am I automatically disqualified?**

No, we have a rating system that determines eligibility. All applicants 18 years of age or older, that will live in the home, will be required to complete a background check.

*** If I have a sexual offender offense, am I automatically disqualified?**

Yes. However some circumstantial situations can be reviewed if you appeal.

*** What if I want to apply and I do not speak English?**

Complete the application in English. If/when you move on to Phase 2, we will schedule an appointment with you and an available interpreter.

***Do you rent homes?**

No, we do not.

Need Help Now?

We know housing is a significant challenge for many in our community and unfortunately our program cannot serve everyone nor do we provide emergency housing. Below are additional resources and links to housing counselors and other local housing programs.

Homeownership and Financial Counseling:

Dominion Financial Management – Financial and credit coaching! They have helped many improve their credit, lower debts, and implement monthly budgeting skills in order to qualify and become successful homeowners with Habitat or through other mortgage programs. Contact them at (615) 220-5858 to schedule an appointment.

Order a free copy of your credit report – www.annualcreditreport.com

Resources to find affordable housing:

TNHousingSearch.org – <https://tnhousingsearch.org>– Offers thousands of detailed, up-to-date listings of apartments and homes for rent throughout Tennessee. Plus, they specialize in helping people with special challenges, from affordability, to disabilities, to emergency housing. Search by city, county, or ZIP code to find current listings in your area. Or call 1.877.428.8844 for bi-lingual and/or one-on-one assistance in finding the right listing for your needs and budget.

211 Helpline – United Way of Rutherford County’s 24/7, 365-day information and referral helpline that provides individuals in need with help in times of crisis and beyond. Call 211, or visit [211 | United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties \(yourlocaluw.org\)](http://211 | United Way of Rutherford and Cannon Counties (yourlocaluw.org))

MHA – The Murfreesboro Housing Authority offers public housing – [Affordable Housing Page \(mha-tn.org\)](http://Affordable Housing Page (mha-tn.org))