The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) is the only national intermediary organization focusing on the development of affordable housing in rural communities. HAC’s mission is to improve housing conditions for the rural poor, with an emphasis on the poorest of the poor in the most rural places. Since its founding in 1971, HAC’s borrowers have come from 49 states and two territories. The organization maintains a special focus on several high-needs groups and regions, including Appalachia, the Mississippi Delta, the southwestern border colonies, Native American lands, and farm workers. HAC has emphasized local solutions, providing loans and technical assistance to enable local public, nonprofit, and private organizations to improve housing conditions in their own rural communities. Its products and services also include training workshops, research and information on rural housing projects, and public advocacy.

Success Story: Southeastern Wisconsin Housing Corporation of Racine County (SEWHC), Burlington, WI

In 1972, SEWHC became one of the first ten organizations across America to receive a rural housing loan from HAC. Since receiving that first loan of $647,000, SEWHC has continued to work with HAC and has built more than 1,500 units of affordable housing for low- and very low-income families in rural southeastern Wisconsin. “HAC has been with us from the beginning. Without their assistance, it is doubtful that SEWHC would have been able to exist,” said Arturo Gonzalez, the Executive Director of SEWHC.