Self-Help

Founded in Durham, North Carolina in 1980, Self-Help is a nonprofit credit union, community development lender, and real estate developer, with a mission to create and protect ownership and economic opportunity for all, especially people of color, women, rural residents, and low-wealth families and communities nationwide. Self-Help strengthens underserved communities by providing financing to homebuyers, nonprofits, childcare centers, community health facilities, public charter schools, and residential and commercial real estate projects. Self-Help’s family of organizations includes the Center for Community Self-Help, Self-Help Credit Union, Self-Help Federal Credit Union, Self-Help Ventures Fund, and the Center for Responsible Lending. Together, these entities provide financing, technical support, consumer financial services, and advocacy for those left out of the economic mainstream. In total, Self-Help has provided more than $7 billion in financing, with 112,000 loans to families, individuals, and organizations.

Success Story: Focus Learning Academy, Dallas, TX

When the Focus Learning Academy—an innovative charter school established to help low-income students with learning disabilities—needed to expand its facilities, founder Leroy McClure couldn’t find a lender that was interested in the project. Then he turned to Self-Help, which offered extensive guidance to help the school qualify for financing and later provided a $3 million loan to complete the Academy’s flagship campus. “Self-Help was the first lender to tell us ‘We love what you’re doing.’ They took the time to learn about our vision,” LeRoy said.

Financial and Social Impact

- Direct home lending: Loans to 6,600 homeowners
- Schools or child care spaces served: 69,000
- Solar investments: $126 million
- Jobs created or maintained: 43,000
- Loans to: Low-income borrowers (81%), people of color (70%), women (39%), distressed areas (64%), rural areas (25%)
- Consumer financial services: $931 million in savings accounts, $271 million in consumer loans

Contact

Center for Community Self-Help
301 West Main Street
Durham, NC 27701
P: 919.956.4400
F: 919.956.4600
E: info@self-help.org