

CitiesFirst™

Mission Statement

CitiesFirst™ is a national community revitalization partnership. The **United States Conference of Mayors** has joined together with **Nehemiah Corporation of California** in a public/private partnership to transform and rebuild cities, help shape federal urban policy, promote urban renewal, and bring people and commerce back to the heart of cities. Fulfilling this mission will ensure that cities are vibrant centers of commerce while providing economic opportunity for all individuals.

Partnership Purpose

CitiesFirst™ was formed by the United States Conference of Mayors and Nehemiah Corporation as a public/private partnership for the purpose of implementing strategies to develop and rebuild our cities. Uniting with mayors, city officials, local business and community leaders, and members of the lending and financial communities who share our goal will fulfill this purpose.

There is nothing more important than effective and thoughtful use of urban land to spur economic growth – and this is where CitiesFirst™ can play a major role in our American cities. In coming together, America's communities are being rebuilt from the inside out.



Nehemiah
CORPORATION
OF CALIFORNIA

United States Conference of Mayors

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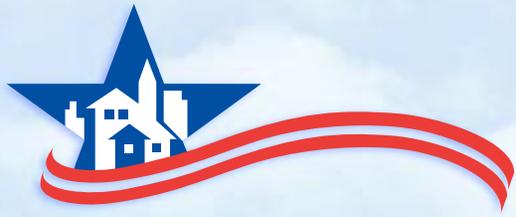
www.cities1st.org



*Committed to Ensuring
that Our Cities are
Vibrant Centers of
Commerce while
Providing Economic
Opportunity for
All Individuals.*



Nehemiah
CORPORATION
OF CALIFORNIA



CitiesFirst™ is committed to rebuilding America's communities from the inside out. The success that has followed pursuit of that goal is evident; to date, almost 100,000 families and individuals have benefited from affordable housing and community revitalization efforts nationwide. From multi-million dollar community development investments to moving renters into homes that they own, CitiesFirst™ is paving new paths to success through its family of progressive community revitalization programs.

Creative Community Investment

CitiesFirst™ is devoted to creating innovative tools for both investors and communities to succeed. Through smart planning and thoughtful investments, Nehemiah, through CitiesFirst™, will continue to lead the way in rebuilding the fabric of America's communities from the inside out. In March 2000, Nehemiah invested \$5 million in the Genesis L.A. Real Estate Fund. This groundbreaking economic initiative targets blighted Los Angeles areas in the hope of renovating them into attractive business locations, thus combating high unemployment and poverty. Nehemiah was the only non-profit corporation to contribute to this project. The Fund closed at \$71 million and the first investment was sold to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which will develop the property into a combination of creative office and film archives. In June 2001, a check for \$264,279 was received by Nehemiah as an initial return on the investment.

Special Needs Housing

In communities across America, there is a need for adequate resources and special housing services designed to help transitioning adults and families regain their independence and move forward in society. CitiesFirst™ is lending a hand to these hard-working citizens through Nehemiah Urban Land Trust (NULT). NULT acquires, manages and preserves both affordable and special needs housing for social service agencies that assist low-income families and individuals. The goal is to secure the long-term use and affordability of the property, ensuring the agency's ongoing ability to continue to serve the community.

The first NULT project successfully secured a property rented by a social service agency that provides transitional living services to a dozen mentally ill and homeless adults. When the agency's rental facility was put up for sale, NULT purchased the property outright, guaranteeing the program an affordable, secure and long-term housing option. Now, the community and the program residents will continue to benefit from the services provided by the agency.



Turning Renters Into Proud Homeowners

CitiesFirst™ is proud to support The Nehemiah Program®. The Nehemiah Program® exists for a very simple purpose: turning renters into homeowners. CitiesFirst™ believes that all hard-working people deserve access to safe and affordable housing in vibrant communities. The Nehemiah Program® is one of a host of affordable housing and community revitalization programs that were created to rebuild America's communities from the inside out. Since its inception in 1997, this program has provided more than \$275 million in down payment gifts toward the purchase of homes in cities throughout the United States. Today, it is the largest and most successful privately-funded down payment assistance program in the nation.

Coast to coast, there are more than 80,000 success stories of families and individuals who have become proud homeowners using this program.

Success of The Nehemiah Program®

