

## Local Partnership and HOUSING

- Ireland

Carbery Housing Association (CHA), which has applied and been approved as an Approved Housing Body (AHB), is an association, located in Cork, of people coming together to develop and provide housing and associated amenities, for a range of households that were excluded from the housing market, on the basis of partnership with local authorities and community organizations, and aiming at a high level of energy efficiency and sustainability.

CHA has worked to develop and implement community-based and sustainable social housing in County Cork since 2001. The Association is currently negotiating the purchase of 20 properties in Cork City and County under the Phoenix Project, to rent them to families or single persons/parents, mostly unemployed, disabled or pensioners, in receipt of welfare or having low incomes, nominated by the local authority from their housing list, at means-tested "council-equivalent" rents. The County Council agreed to pay a fee of 80% of the market rent for each property, which allowed CHA to pay the long-term lease rental. In addition, CHA has carried out improvements, including energy retrofits, to these properties, installing solid fuel stoves to supplement existing heating.

Once clients are nominated, they are interviewed by members of the CHA Executive Committee, who explain them how CHA operates and how they can be involved in its work. In fact, CHAs will hold regular meeting and training event for new tenants, where Committee explain in more detail how CHA can improve their environment and quality of life.

The Phoenix Project received a special mention for the [REVES Excellence Award 2015](#).