

Critical Home Repair

Homeowners Wanted

Helping limited-income homeowners stay safely at home since 2008.

We offer home repair services to homeowners who struggle to maintain their homes due to limitations like income, age, disability or other conditions so that they can live in safe, functional and weatherproof homes for years to come.

Our Services:

EXTERIOR PAINTING:

Exterior paint seals a house against the weather, helping it repel moisture and retain heat and cooling.

ROOF REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT:

A leaking roof can cause a cascade of water-related problems, quickly leading to a house being rendered unsafe and/or unlivable. Prompt repairs can extend the life of the home. Our budget allows a limited number of roofs to be replaced each year.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS:

Critical Home Repair works to enable aging or disabled homeowners to remain safely in their homes by constructing wheelchair ramps, installing grab bars and making other accessibility improvements.

MINOR STRUCTURAL AND MECHANICAL REPAIRS:

Walls, floors or ceilings sometimes need repair, as well as a myriad of other “broken” items that can require the services of a handyman.

WEATHERIZATION OF DOORS AND WINDOWS:

Old or damaged doors and windows can be a weatherization problem, or even a safety issue. Windows or doors can often be fixed with simple caulking or sealing, but replacement may be necessary.

OTHER NECESSARY REPAIRS WITHIN BUDGET:

Damaged or non-functional parts of a house, such as plumbing, HVAC or electricity, can have a huge impact on the livability of a home and may be addressed in your scope of work.

How does the Critical Home Repair program work?

- Families partner with Habitat based on need, income and willingness to help.
- We use volunteer labor and donated materials to keep costs low.
- Homeowners (or friends and/or family) contribute 70 hours of sweat equity as their contribution.

Why do we offer these home maintenance services?

- Many homeowners are “doing without” essential services such as bathrooms or heat due to lack of income to fix the problem.
- By helping homeowners “Age in Place” we are helping them stay in a more comfortable and affordable situation as they grow older.
- Families need safe and well-maintained homes.
- Affordable housing inventory is preserved.



“The Critical Home Repair staff are my angels.”

— Sandra L., CRITICAL HOME REPAIR HOMEOWNER

How do I apply?

Who qualifies?

- You must be the owner of record for your home (proof required)
- The home must be your primary residence
- Provide a current copy of your gas and electric bills
- Household must be low-income according to HUD guidelines (income documentation required)
- You must provide a copy of photo ID
- You must fill out the Critical Home Repair application

How long does it take?

The entire process can take up to a year.

- Fill out and turn in a *complete* application
- Meet *in person* with staff at the OKC Habitat offices to determine the scope of work.
- After you apply, a Critical Home Repair staff member will come to your home to evaluate your house. *You must meet the staff member there for the evaluation.*
- Project is presented to board of directors for approval.
- You will need to perform your volunteer hours **BEFORE** work can be scheduled.
- You *may need* to clear away personal belongings prior to repairs being scheduled, if they impede the area.
- At this point, work can be scheduled. *You must be present for the evaluation and for all of the work days.*
- A Critical Home Repair crew comes to your home and completes your repairs! (Typically takes 2-3 days)

NOTE The Critical Home Repair program **IS NOT** an **emergency solution** to the problems with your home. *If you have a dangerous situation or an urgent need, some agencies you can contact include:*

- Community Action Services
- Catholic Charities (Archdiocese of OKC)
- OKC (HEMP) housing.rehab@okc.gov
- 211



Applying is easy!

- Visit our website (Scan QR code!)
- Call our office if you have questions
- Visit our OKC office or either Habitat ReStore to pick up an application



What does it cost?

Each Critical Home Repair project typically costs Central Oklahoma Habitat between \$3,000-\$6,000. However, each project is unique and total repair costs are determined after the home is evaluated.

The *only cost to the homeowner* is 70 required volunteer hours (known as sweat-equity hours) performed by the homeowner or by friends/family. Alternate options are available if you cannot perform physical labor. These hours must be completed **before** work begins.



The Process:

1. Apply
2. Evaluate
3. Approve
4. Scope of work
5. Sweat equity
6. Schedule
7. Repairs

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Critical Home Repair

Volunteers Wanted!



We offer home repair services to homeowners who struggle to maintain their homes due to limitations like income, age, disability or other conditions so that they can live in safe, functional and weatherproof homes for years to come.

Why volunteer?

CHR Volunteer Coordinator Chris Hearn believes volunteering helps build confidence and new skills, which are some of the benefits reaped when people donate their time and energy to Habitat.

"I have a lot of volunteers who say they expected to give more than received," Hearn said. "Our volunteers like the ROVERS feel they've become part of a community or family. By volunteering, they're not just creating a foundation for a homeowner, they're building a foundation for their life.

"People have a choice on a Saturday morning to sleep in or get up and give others a life-changing gift by helping to work on a new home or repairing others," Hearn said. "It gives you a sense of accomplishment which can help your mental health."

Give Us **One Day.**
Learn **One Skill.**
Change **One Life.**
Yours!

"It's very satisfying to fix something and then see how happy it makes the owners. They just plain need our help."

— CHR VOLUNTEER



How can I get involved?

INDIVIDUALS:

It's easy to volunteer directly with Critical Home Repair, especially since so many of our projects are small scale and therefore need fewer people. Simply visit helpmyhabitat.com/.

GROUPS:

Groups are always welcome! We are looking to add another group like our current group of volunteers called the ROVERS. College students, businesses, new retirees or church groups would be ideal.

LICENSED CONTRACTORS:

We always welcome contractors willing to donate their time, or journeyman/trainees who want to build up their skill base. We often need plumbers, electricians, roofers, etc.



We are looking for volunteers

- Small to medium teams of 2-9 people
- Willing to commit to one to three days
- Workdays are Thursday through Saturday
- Each workday lasts about 5-7 hours

Do I need to be a skilled handyman?

IT'S LIKE LEGGOS:

Many volunteers start out with very limited abilities and work their way into more complex skills. According to Chris Hearn, CHR volunteer coordinator, if you can assemble Leggos® with an instruction sheet, you can do most of the work needed on a typical project. And there is always a Habitat staff member there to teach and supervise.



LEARNING NEW SKILLS:

Some volunteers use Critical Home Repair projects as opportunities to expand their handyman skill set. Recent "learning" projects have included installing windows, hanging doors and replacing ceiling fans.



BEFORE



AFTER

Looking for a special group project?

LOCAL MISSION TRIP:

Maybe your group or religious organization is considering a more hands-on way to help those in need in your part of the city. It's possible to match your group to a Critical Home Repair project in the metro area, making a local "mission trip" possible.

TURNKEY PROJECT:

Some groups are more ambitious and would like to see a project through from fundraising through completion. Here at Habitat's Critical Home Repair we are ready and eager to partner with you.

What's it cost, and how can I help?

Critical Home Repair projects typically cost Central Oklahoma Habitat between \$3,000-\$6,000. Please give what you can individually or as a group. Your donation makes a world of difference for a limited-income homeowner living in unsafe, unhealthy and/or inaccessible housing conditions.

All in-kind (supplies) and monetary donations are always tax deductible.



Central Oklahoma
Habitat
for Humanity®



cohfh.org/home-repair

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