

## Rachel Fawcett – PHFA’s inaugural Housing Policy Fellow

For 2020, Rachel Fawcett has been selected as the inaugural Housing Policy Fellow by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA). Through Rachel's experience with university, nonprofit, and community sectors, she has developed a passion for housing and community development.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Architecture from Penn State, Rachel worked as the Executive Director for the Centre County Housing and Land Trust, focusing on the development and stewardship of permanently affordable housing for low- to moderate-income people. Rachel also maintains her credential as a LEED Green Associate. She belongs to the Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition and has previously served as the Chair and Vice-Chair for the organization. Over the years, Rachel has developed a unique skill set and currently assists the Pennsylvania Housing Research Center (PHRC) in improving the quality and affordability of housing.

She is pursuing a Master of Professional Studies in Community and Economic Development from Penn State. Additionally, representing the State College area, Rachel is a part of the 2020 Reinventing Our Communities' cohorts focusing on housing equity for the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

### Her PHFA Fellowship Project

Fawcett's fellowship project will focus on research into community land trusts across the country to determine their viability as a shared-equity housing model in Pennsylvania. She will seek to understand the ability of the community land trusts in Pennsylvania to preserve affordability, encourage wealth growth, improve security of tenure, and ensure mobility. With over 225 across the United States, community land trusts have been undertaken by communities to help meet the overwhelming demand for affordable housing. Her research will assess the concept, explore how it is currently being applied, and offer recommendations for future initiatives in Pennsylvania.

Through this fellowship, Rachel hopes to further her lifelong focus that everyone has a right to a decent, affordable home. The PHFA Housing Policy Fellowship provides the opportunity and support to pursue an in-depth research proposal that can better our communities in a tangible manner.



**Rachel Fawcett**