Fulfilling the Dream of Homeownership Through Partnership

After renting for years, Caleb and Alaina Ripley dreamed of being homeowners. They were referred to Eastern Eight Community Development Corporation (CDC) by a friend. The friend shared with them that Eastern Eight provides homebuyer education and credit counseling to help future buyers prepare for homeownership.

The Ripley's began their homebuying process with Eastern Eight in December 2019, who packaged their 502 Direct Loan application through a partnership with the Tennessee Rural Development - Greeneville Area Office. Through this partnership, Eastern Eight and Rural Development service eight counties in Northeast Tennessee.

Eastern Eight applied for a Conditional Commitment with Rural Development and for HOME grant funding through the Tennessee Housing Development Agency for the construction phase of the home.

Construction on their home was scheduled to start in early summer 2020, but due to the challenges of COVID-19 there were several unavoidable delays. Nearly a year later, the Ripley's house is now complete and they are scheduled to move into their new home. "Without the 502 direct program, I don't know how we would have ever been able to buy our first home," Caleb Ripley said. "Eastern Eight built us our dream newly constructed home!"

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs available in Tennessee, contact your local office or visit us online at www.rd.usda.gov/tn.

Date of Obligation: 04/09/2020
Congressional District: Representative Harshbarger, TN-01; Senators Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty

Partners: Eastern Eight Community Development Corporation
Demographics: Washington County, Tenn
Impact: To provide safe, affordable housing to low and very-low income applicants

Story updated March 2021 • USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.