

I am a proud homeowner who had the privilege to benefit from the IDA program at Portland Housing Center. I moved to Portland in 2014 for a job opportunity and knew I wanted to make deep roots. I wasn't terrible at budgeting to begin with, but the IDA program taught me the ins and outs of home shopping, buying, and maintenance planning. I was able to find a home in the city center that was large enough to have housemates. This supplemented my income towards paying my monthly mortgage. I have since moved up in my work role and can afford to not have housemates any longer. I have also worked for the past 3 and a half years to improve on my investment, remodeling and renewing my house inside and out. I recently decided to return to school for a graduate degree and was able to take advantage of the low interest rates for a cash-out mortgage refinance that will lower my monthly payment, provide me with 2/3 of the funding I need for my graduate program, and reduce my overall costs on the life of the loan. This is what asset building is all about: helping citizens make roots, improve their lives, and continue benefiting the community.