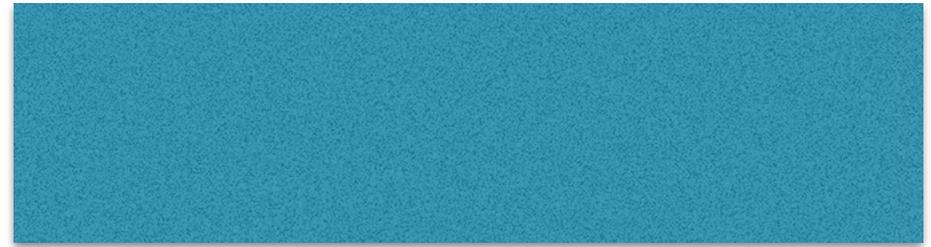




# FAITH IN HOUSING

*A workshop for congregations  
to create affordable housing*



## Before You Start: LISTEN

Faith community organizers encourage listening to your congregants rather than relying solely on a committee to make decisions for your congregation's resources. Ask the question in one-on-ones or small groups: why does affordable housing matter to us? This process will surface lay leaders eager to research agencies involved in this work, and ultimately answer key questions:

- **Who do we want to serve:** singles, families, seniors, refugees, neighborhood workers, a specific income level, or some other defined group?
- **How does serving this group fit** with our congregation's mission and neighborhood?
- **How do we amplify—and not duplicate—** the work of existing providers of housing/services for this targeted population?

## What We All Can Do:

### Educate

Help your congregants learn about the nature of the affordable housing crisis in Charlotte. For example, share the 10-minute documentary *Souls of Our Neighbors* <https://vimeo.com/262543514>, attend community events, conduct a tour of existing congregational developments, and/or invite a guest speaker to your congregation.

### Create Relationships

Work with local agencies to support and mentor individuals and families experiencing homelessness to understand the problem first hand.

### Advocate

Understand local policy issues that affect affordable housing and support issues and referendums that will bring about change.

## Assess Off Site Funding Possibilities

**What funding for affordable housing could your congregation amass over a few years to support local housing initiatives?**

### Some (\$1,000-\$25,000)

Consider making annual grants to local agencies to support their local efforts to house individuals and families in Charlotte. Make a contribution to the A Way Home Housing Endowment which moves families from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

### Sizable (\$25,000-\$250,000)

Consider partnering with local organizations to fund programs, staff or capital campaigns for housing.

### Significant (\$250,000+)

Consider partnering with local organizations and developers to create new options for affordable housing or purchase land for affordable housing.