

About Lutheran Services in America: a nationwide network of 300 nonprofit health and human service organizations across 1,400 U.S. communities with more than \$26 billion in combined annual services. With a mission to cultivate caring communities to advance health and opportunity for all, the Lutheran Services in America network touches 1 in 50 people across the country each year.

The Essential Lutheran Role

Network members are improving housing in a variety of ways, including through:

- Developing affordable housing for children, youth and families and seniors.
- Expanding housing access for people with disabilities and New Americans.
- Revitalizing existing housing and stewarding land historically owned churches and faith-based schools to increase the supply of mixed income housing; and
- Improving housing security with access to supports and services, including behavioral health.

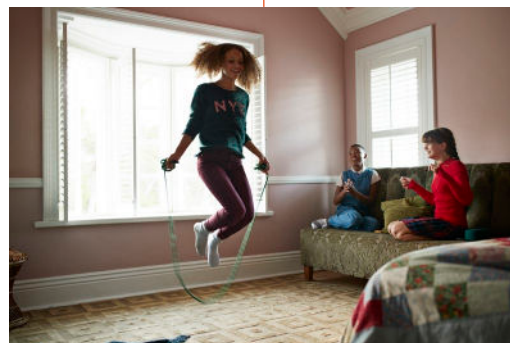
Housing Solutions Collaborative

A key initiative of Lutheran Services in America, the Housing Solutions Collaborative brings together more than 20 leading organizations working across 25 states and Washington D.C. The Collaborative unites members in addressing the systemic barriers to affordable housing. Together, they seek solutions to address housing insecurity, as a means to provide shelter and to ensure that community residents are connected to supportive services that promote individual and community health.



37.1 million households including renters and owners, were cost burdened

Only 26% of eligible households received federal housing subsidies



LUTHERAN SERVICES IN AMERICA NETWORK

300 health and human services organizations in 1,400 communities

Explore our interactive map at
lutheranservices.org

To expand access to affordable housing with services and supports to meet community needs, priorities should include:

- Increase funding for key programs such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)
- Incentivize the stewardship of faith-based land conversions
- Improve access to affordable and rural housing programs

Provide adequate funding to expand affordable housing in communities

- **Ensure flexibilities in federal investments** and improve incentives to expand mixed-income housing to include more affordable units.
- **Expand the supply of Section 202 Housing** (Housing for the Elderly) through increased funding to meet the nationwide shortage of affordable senior housing.
- **Reauthorize and adequately fund the HOME Investment Partnerships Program** which provides critical resources to states and localities to address affordable housing challenges.

Increase options for aligning housing and services

- **Support efforts to align and coordinate health, housing and services** across federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, among others including further expansion of 1115 waivers and demonstrations.
- **Expand alignment of needed supports and services through enhanced care coordination** in HUD-assisted housing to connect low-income families and older adults with resources

Incentivize faith-based land conversions

- **Reduce barriers** for faith-based organizations to redevelop land, buildings, and property to ensure expansion of affordable housing and meet additional community needs.
- **Help address restrictions** to this housing in local zoning and other policies through technical assistance and challenge grants.

Improve rural housing programs

- **Support S. 1389, the Rural Housing Service Reform Act, bipartisan legislation which would improve federal rural housing programs**, cut red tape, and strengthen the supply of affordable housing by improving and strengthening several U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) rural housing programs
- **Expand alignment of needed supports and services through enhanced care coordination** in federally subsidized rural housing

Increase availability of LIHTC

Expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit to address increased demand across the country: support final passage of H.R. 7024, the bipartisan Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act which would:

- Finance an estimated 200,000 additional affordable housing units nationwide
- Generate over \$34 billion in wages and business income
- Support over 304,000 jobs
- Generate almost \$12 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenue