

Lutheran Services in America — one of the largest nonprofit networks in the country — is rooted in a century-long faith-based, mission-driven tradition of service. Through its nationwide network of nearly 300 independent health and human service providers, Lutheran Services in America works in 46 states, Washington, DC and Puerto Rico, and reaches over 7 million people annually: 1 in 50 people in America, in 1,400 communities, with more than 250,000 dedicated employees. We recognize that stable housing is essential to good health across all populations with whom we work, including children and families, older adults, and people with disabilities.

The Essential Lutheran Role

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

- Developing and preserving affordable housing with services for children, youth and families, people with disabilities, and older adults across the continuum of care/needs.
- Revitalizing existing housing stock and stewarding land conversions including those historically owned by faith-based entities to increase the supply of affordable and mixed income housing.
- Improving affordable housing with access to supports and services, including behavioral health, and through increased investment in

Housing Solutions Collaborative

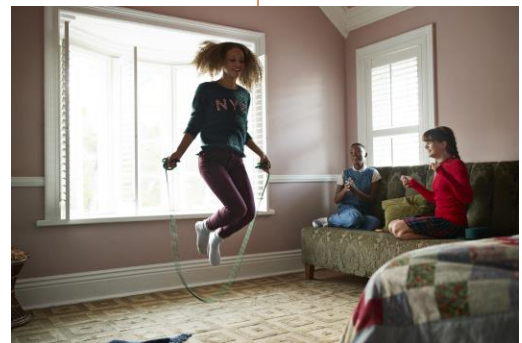
The Housing Solutions Collaborative brings together more than 35 organizations across 35 states and Washington, D.C to address the systemic barriers to affordable housing.

Together, they advance affordable housing solutions including ensuring community residents are connected to care coordination and supportive services that promote holistic individual and community health.



**42 million
households**
including renters
and owners,
are cost
burdened

Only 1 in 4
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 increase access to housing and health, legislative and policy priorities should include:

- Expanding access to affordable and rural housing with services and supports.
- Supporting faith-based land conversions and rehabilitation of existing properties.
- Improving and expanding resources such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).
- Investing in technology to ensure older adults and people with disabilities can live with independence and choice.

We call on Congress and policymakers to take the following actions:

Expand Access to Affordable Housing

Support the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream (ROAD) to Housing Act (S. 2651):

- This bill advances 40 provisions to expand housing access, improve affordability, and boost federal program efficiency. It:
 - o **Increases flexibility and incentives** for mixed-income and affordable housing development.
 - o **Strengthens USDA rural housing programs** through reforms from the rural housing services reform act.
 - o **Reauthorizes and enhances the HOME Investment Partnerships Program**, with flexible, targeted funding.
 - o **Requires interagency coordination** among HUD, USDA, and the VA to streamline processes and share data.

Improve and Expand Resources

Leverage the expanded Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and New Market Tax Credit programs under H.R. 1

- **Ensure flexibilities in federal investments** and improve incentives to expand mixed-income housing to include more affordable units.
- **Expand Section 202 Housing** (Housing for the Elderly) to address the nationwide shortage of affordable senior housing.
- **Investing in enabling technologies and strengthening Home- and Community-Based Services** to allow older adults and people with disabilities to live in their communities
- **Increase targeted investments to help people experiencing homelessness** access housing, behavioral health, and services across the continuum of care.

Incentivize Faith-Based Land Conversions

- **Support the Yes in God's Backyard Act" (S. 2720)** to reduce barriers for faith-based organizations to redevelop land, buildings, and property for affordable housing and community-serving uses. Key provisions include:
 - o **Provides technical assistance and challenge grants** to address zoning restrictions and local barriers to faith-based housing development.
- **Support the "Faith in Housing Act" (H.R. 5601)** which Preempts local and regulatory zoning laws that prevent the building of affordable housing on land owned by a church or association of churches.

Improve Affordable and Rural Housing with Services & Supports

- **Support the Rural Housing Service Reform Act of 2025 (H.R.4957/S. 1260,)** bipartisan legislation to reform and strengthen USDA rural housing programs, reduce administrative barriers, and expand the supply of affordable housing.
- **Support the Expanding Service Coordinators Act (H.R. 5057,)** to grow service coordinator programs across HUD-assisted housing, establish competitive grants for hiring service coordinators, and prioritize properties serving older adults, disabled residents, and communities experiencing persistent poverty.
- **Advancing policies to improve coverage for case management and care coordination, proactively address social needs and ensuring timely** access to housing, transportation, nutrition, and other services that address holistic social and health needs.