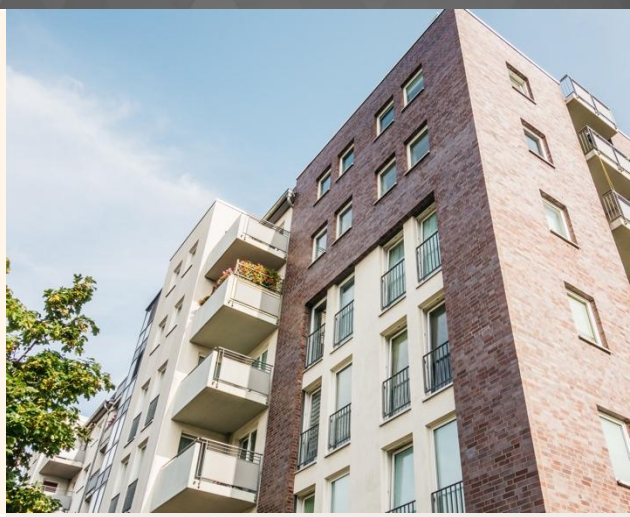
Lutheran Services in America

Advancing Housing and Health

Lutheran Services in America—one of the nation's largest nonprofit networks—draws on a century-long, faith-based, mission-driven tradition of service. Through a nationwide network of nearly 300 independent health and human service providers, it operates in 46 states, Washington, DC, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, reaching more than 7 million people annually—1 in 50 people in America—across 1,400 communities with the support of over 250,000 employees. Stable housing is essential to good health across all populations with whom we work, including children and families, older adults, and people with disabilities.



How Our Network Improves Housing

- **By developing and preserving affordable housing** with integrated services across the full continuum of needs.
- **By revitalizing existing housing stock and stewarding land conversions**, including of properties historically owned by faith-based entities, to expand affordable and mixed-income housing.
- **By leveraging holistic supportive services** to strengthen affordable housing, including behavioral health, and through increased investment in enabling technology.

Housing Solutions Collaborative

The Housing Solutions Collaborative brings together more than 35 LSA organizations across 35 states and Washington, D.C. to tackle systemic barriers to affordable housing and connect residents to care coordinators and supportive services that strengthen individual and community health.

42 million

Renter and Owner Households are Cost-Burdened

We Call on Congress and Policymakers to Increase Access to Housing and Health by:

1. Expanding access to affordable housing with services, including rural housing.
2. Supporting faith-based land conversion and property rehabilitation.
3. Improving and expanding resources such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).
4. Investing in services that support independent living for older adults and people with disabilities.

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Lutheran Services in America asks lawmakers to take the following actions:

1 Expand Access to Affordable Housing

Support the successful implementation of the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, a law that will expand housing access, improve affordability and boost federal program efficiency by:

- Increasing flexibility and incentives.
- Strengthening USDA rural housing programs.
- Reauthorizing and enhancing the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.
- Requiring interagency coordination among HUD, USDA and the VA.

2 Support Faith-Based Land Conversions and Property Rehabilitation

- **Support the "Yes in God's Backyard Act" (S. 2720)** to reduce barriers for faith-based organizations redeveloping land, buildings and property for affordable housing and community uses through the provision of technical assistance and challenge grants.
- **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.
- **Support the "Faith-Based Affordable Housing Pre-Development Fund Act" (H.R. 10513)** for competitive grants to fund pre-development activities for FBOs interested in building housing on land they own.

3 Invest in Services that Support Independent Living for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

- **Advance policies** that improve coverage for case management and care coordination, address social needs and ensure timely access to housing, transportation, nutrition and other holistic services.
- **Support the bipartisan Rural Housing Service Reform Act of 2025 (H.R.4957/S. 1260)**, 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 increase service coordinator programs across HUD-assisted housing, including through competitive grants, and prioritize properties serving older adults, people with disabilities and communities experiencing poverty.

4 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.
- Expand Section 202 Housing (Housing for the Elderly).
- Invest in enabling technologies and strengthen Home- and Community-Based Services for older adults and people with disabilities.
- Increase targeted investments to help people experiencing homelessness access housing, behavioral health, and other services across the continuum of care.

For more information, contact advocacy@lutheranservices.org

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