affordable housing advocates

BE AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCATE
WHAT YOU CAN DO

➔ **Be a YIMBY (Yes in my backyard), not a NIMBY (Not in my backyard)!** Welcome and actively support a diverse community with affordable, accessible, safe homes at every price point and life situation where you live. Speak out for affordable housing opportunities at community council meetings. Ask about developments coming to your community and make sure they are inclusive!

➔ **Support funding for affordable housing at local, state and national levels.** Costs to build, renovate, and maintain housing far exceed reasonable monthly payments. That simple math makes rents and mortgage unaffordable -- unless subsidies cover the difference. Ask government officials to support funding for subsidies including public housing, vouchers, tax credits, and financing supports for housing authorities, developers, and nonprofits who build and maintain housing for low and very low-income people.

➔ **Hold government officials accountable.** When public officials are campaigning, ask them their position on affordable, accessible, and supportive housing, and what can be done to ensure it. Compare responses during campaign season to their actions in office.

- When they make development deals, are accessible, affordable units required?
- Do they hold developers and property owners accountable for promised quality and accessibility?
- Are they paying attention to policies that displace people when prices go up?

➔ **Provide mutual aid and support** individually or through a group such as a church, business, or community organization. **Donate money, time, or resources**:

- make one-time or ongoing financial contributions;
- organize drives and fundraisers for household items and emergency financial support;
- share your personal experience and knowledge about housing resources with people experiencing housing instability, or educate the public; and/or
- invite the Cincinnati Homeless Coalition Speakers Bureau to provide an educational presentation, or tour to help your community or group learn about housing issues.

➔ **Organize with others in your building or neighborhood** to hold landlords, developers, banks, and government accountable, and/or **join local advocacy groups** such as:

- **Rental tenants** can organize their building through Cincinnati Homeless Coalition, CTU (Cincinnati Tenants Union) and CUFA (Communities United for Action); homeowners can organize together through WIN (Working in Neighborhoods);
- **Churches, temples and mosques** can connect through Found House (formerly IHN - Interfaith Hospitality Network), MARCC (Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati); and FCA (Faith Community Alliance);
- **Individuals and groups** can join in local housing advocacy groups such as CAHN (Community Action for Housing Now), CTU (Cincinnati Tenants Union), CUFA (Communities United for Action) Cincinnati Homeless Coalition, Cincinnati UNDIVIDED and AHA (Affordable Housing Advocates).