

3 WAYS

FAITH COMMUNITIES CAN ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

FINDING AN APARTMENT with affordable rent is a challenge for many people in Los Angeles County, especially people who are experiencing homelessness.

Thanks to Measure H, more help is available, including help with paying the rent for people moving out of homelessness. We have both a shortage of apartments with affordable rents and a shortage of landlords who are willing to rent to people with Section 8 vouchers or shorter-term Rapid ReHousing. Your congregation can be part of the solution!

Last year over 16,000 people in LA County living on the street and in shelters moved into a place they call home.

1. Find Landlords

Are there people in your congregation that own apartments or houses they rent?

Homeowners who have back yard houses, converted garages?

Homeowners with extra rooms that are having trouble paying their mortgages?

- LeaseUp Los Angeles assists property owners and managers in filling vacant units with people in need of housing. LeaseUp LA offers property owners financial incentives, a dedicated team, and consistent support to ensure a smooth process. List your property on **LeaseUpLosAngeles.org**.
- Arrange an informational session for people who are already landlords where they can learn about:
 - Rental assistance programs for tenants moving out of homelessness
 - Financial incentives for landlords under Section 8
 - One-on-one services to help tenants succeed
- Arrange a First-Time Landlord Workshop for people who have a space to rent, but have never rented before so they can begin learning the ropes.

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2. Build a Back House to Rent

Are there homeowners in your congregation who would like to build a back house, convert a garage, or add an apartment to their house to increase its value?

- Arrange an informational session for homeowners where they can learn about:
 - New rules for back houses (also called Accessory Dwelling Units or ADUs) that allow homeowners in single-family zones to add a second unit or legalize an unpermitted unit
 - Overview of the steps to designing, financing and building your back house

3. Repurpose Property You Own

Does your faith community own unused property? A home? An apartment building or office building? Empty lots? Parking lots?

- Here are a few things to consider:
 - Are you comfortable selling or leasing your property to help house or shelter people experiencing homelessness? Are you interested in becoming a formal partner with a nonprofit or a government agency? Is your vision for using your property to serve people experiencing homelessness a short term or long term partnership?
 - Does your congregation want to be hands-on in the work with people experiencing homelessness? Or would you rather take more of a landlord role?
 - Is there a particular homeless population you are interested in serving? Families with children? Young Adults? Veterans? Seniors? People with involvement in the justice system? People with substance abuse issues? People with mental health issues?

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