



# METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION

# NEWSLETTER

October 2011

## 2011 State of Metropolitan Housing Report

MHC will release *the 2011 State of Metropolitan Housing Report* on October 27, 2011 at noon at New Directions Housing Corporation, 1000 East Liberty Street, Louisville.

The focus of this year's report is on the built and natural environment and the role it plays in fair and affordable housing. Topic areas explored will include: green space; air, water, and soil pollution; brownfields; vacant properties; lead issues; and storm water and floods. MHC believes that the 2011 State of Metropolitan Housing Report will become a valuable asset to policy makers, advocates, and residents as we work for greener, safer neighborhoods and housing opportunities. The data and analysis presented in the report will educate and empower its readers to advocate for change that supports healthier housing and neighborhoods for all greater Louisville residents.

Of course the report will also feature our nine measures of fair and affordable housing and include analysis of 2010 US Census and 2009 American Community Survey data. Data highlights from the *2011 State of Metropolitan Housing Report* include:

- Subsidized housing in Louisville Metro remains highly concentrated. Nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all subsidized housing units in Jefferson County are located in seven out of 26 Metro Council districts (districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 15), while districts 7 and 16's combined total of subsidized units is only 0.3%.
- In 2010, 15.3% of all people in the Louisville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) were below the poverty threshold.
- Within the Louisville MSA, renters comprise a little over a third of the total number of households and nearly half (48%) of renter households cannot afford a two-bedroom unit at Fair Market Rent.
- Of the 22 major industry sectors in the Louisville MSA, six of these (comprising 28% of the total employment) have median annual incomes that fall below the annual income needed for a household to afford a two-bedroom rental unit at Fair Market Rent.
- There has been a 6% decrease in the number of affordable housing units in Louisville Metro over the past year, representing a loss of 663 units.
- The 2010 homeownership rate in the Louisville MSA dropped to 63.4%, the lowest rate since 2005.
- The Louisville MSA saw a total of 8,361 foreclosures in 2010, an increase of 17% from 2009.

- During the 2010-2011 school year, 9.6% of the total student enrollment for Jefferson County Public Schools was homeless at some point during the school year.

Once again, the University of Louisville Center for Environmental Policy and Management has worked with MHC to get the newest data, best practices and policies all in one document. The report's authors are John Vick, M.A., Carol Norton, Ph.D., and Lauren Heberle, Ph.D. Join us at New Directions Housing Corporation for a public forum where the authors will present the report's findings.

If you cannot attend the report release, the *2011 State of Metropolitan Housing Report* will be available for download at [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org) on Friday, October 28.

MHC wishes to thank the sponsors of our 9th annual *State of Metropolitan Housing Report* for their generous support: PNC Bank, The Gannett Foundation, Janet Dakan, and Louisville Metro Government.

### MHC's New Website

We at MHC are excited about our redesigned website- [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org). It features our extensive report library, membership lists, and a new public policy library, containing important housing and community development documents from Louisville Metro Government, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and Louisville Metro Housing Authority, amongst other government agencies. You can also keep an eye on our site for MHC news and events.

Of course you can still make your membership donation on our site. You can also use the website to follow MHC on Facebook, Twitter (@mhclouisville) and Linked In.

MHC wishes to thank our web designer, Makespace ([www.makespaceweb.com](http://www.makespaceweb.com)) for a fantastic design and launch of the new website. Special thanks go to the team that built the site- Stofer Smith, Bess McLaughlin, Mitchell Petty, Kat French and Rob Miles- for their fine work.

Makespace generously supported the redesign by providing MHC with discounted web design services through their Beenevolent program. The program provides professional design and marketing services to Louisville area non-profits. MHC thanks Makespace/Beenevolent for their support!

## RxHousing and a New Grant Help the Most Vulnerable Homeless

Louisville is now part of the national 100,000 Homes Campaign, under the leadership of the Coalition for the Homeless. Our local 100,000 Homes initiative, called Rx Housing, is a prescription to house the 50 people most likely to die on the streets of Metro Louisville.

Rx: Housing held a 3-day survey/registry of homeless persons on September 19, 20, and 21 conducted by over 100 volunteers working in 20 teams. The registry's goal was to identify those most vulnerable to help get them off the street and into stable housing. Each day, volunteers met before 4:00 a.m. to conduct surveys in a pre-mapped area for a two-hour period. The LMPD coordinated with Rx: Housing to watch areas of concern and volunteers were assigned to survey people at the hospitals and day shelters that were missed in the homeless camps. In total, the Rx Housing volunteer surveyed 244 homeless people during the 3-day period.

Of those 244 people surveyed, 106 (43%) had at least one vulnerability factor. The average age was 44.9 years, with 7% 60 or older. The average time homeless was 3.54 years. 136 of those surveyed sleep mostly on the streets, 79 mostly in shelters, 2 in a car, 8 by the river and 19 in other areas. 209 had been in jail and 104 had served time in prison. 28 had a mental illness with no substance abuse. 85 had a substance abuse issue with no mental illness. 91 were dually diagnosed. 102 of those surveyed had been a victim of a violent attack. 19.6% were trimorbid, 27% had been to the hospital or ER at least 3 times in the last year, 1.6% had HIV/AIDS, 9% had liver problems, 4% had kidney problems, 13.5% had frost bite, 19.2 had heart problems, 21.3% had asthma, 10.2% had diabetes, 10.2% had emphysema and 7.8% had cancer. 49 were veterans, with 15% of the vets being vulnerable. 45% surveyed were white, 45% were black, 5% were Native American, 2% were mixed race, 2% were unknown or Pacific Islander, and 1% were Latino. Of the vulnerable, 50% were white, 37% were black, 7% were Native American, 4% were mixed rate or unknown, and 3% were Latino. 89% of those surveyed were men and 11% were women. 91% of the vulnerable were men and 9% were women.

The ultimate goal of Rx: Housing is to house the most vulnerable people identified in permanent, supported housing. New resources are being employed to help accomplish that goal. Phoenix Health Center was just awarded a \$1.5 million SAHMSA grant to provide services to approximately 105 of the most vulnerable people surveyed over the next three years. Additionally, Louisville Metro Housing Authority has set aside 70 Section 8 vouchers for those clients. The Coalition for the Homeless and their partners also have access to new VASH and Shelter Plus Care vouchers. For more information about RxHousing, contact Natalie Harris at [nharris@louhomeless.org](mailto:nharris@louhomeless.org).

## A Convergence of Advocacy Efforts

It is amazing when so many points of advocacy cohere. The Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund (LAHTF) is now funded for operations and is acting to meet a challenge match from Mayor Fischer to begin to build the corpus for creating affordable housing.

At the same time, MHC has been working with a group of advocates following the common sense presentation of how a government can collect delinquent property taxes to maximize yield, fairness and neighborhood commitment. This proposed process keeps revenues in our coffers instead of going to speculators and creates a revenue stream for the LAHTF.

The LAHTF will work with Dan Kildee- our 2011 MHC Annual Meeting speaker- and the Center for Community Progress staff to assess the feasibility of this rational tax collection method.

At the same moment in time, the Land Development Code (zoning) is being reviewed and MHC and all fair and affordable housing advocates hope to create more opportunities for diverse housing in all parts of Jefferson County. Please read our 2011 report, the *State of Fair Housing in Louisville: Impediments & Improvements* (available at <http://www.metropolitanhousing.org/resources/mhc-reports>) to see how zoning deliberately and inadvertently has been a barrier to fair housing. MHC will keep you informed about progress on the LDC review.

### LIHEAP Subsidy Program Registration

The Subsidy Phase of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which provides financial assistance to help eligible low-income citizens pay utility bills, will begin for Louisville Metro residents on 11/7. Pre-registration opportunities for income-eligible residents who are elderly (55 years or older) or disabled, receiving social security, SSI, pension or Black Lung benefits began 10/3.

Residents who do not qualify for pre-registration (who are not disabled or elderly) may still apply for LIHEAP benefits by obtaining a LIHEAP Subsidy appointment. Appointments will begin being issued, in person only, from 11/2 to 11/4 at the Central CAP Office located at the Urban Government Center, 810 Barret Avenue from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All three CAP offices will begin taking appointments on 11/7 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Go to <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/CAP/LIHEAP.htm> or call 574-1157 for more information about registration and for a list of pre-registration sites.

## Schedule of Events

**October 18- Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign.** Features Mary McGuire, Team Leader of the Louisville Metro Vacant Abandoned Properties Initiative as guest speaker. Presbyterian Community Center, 701 S. Hancock Street, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**October 27- Forum to Release the 2011 State of Metropolitan Housing Report.** New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty Street, 12:00 p.m.

**November 8- Fair Housing Coalition Meeting.** New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty Street, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**October 12-13- Kentucky Housing Corporation 2011 Kentucky Affordable Housing Conference.** This year's theme is "Housing is the Key." Judge Jeff Choate is featured as keynote speaker. For more information, go to <http://www.kyhousing.org/conference/kahc2011.aspx> Lexington Convention Center.

**October 14- New Albany Housing Authority Open House for the Remodeled Crystal Court.** For more information, contact Debbie Hubbard at 812-206-2031 or [dhubbard@nahain.com](mailto:dhubbard@nahain.com). Intersection of Ealy and West Streets, New Albany, 1:00 p.m.

**October 15- Walk to Defeat Childhood Obesity.** Proceeds support Louisville Urban League Youth Development Programs' health and wellness activities. For more information or to register, contact Tim Tomes at [ttomes@lul.org](mailto:ttomes@lul.org) or 566-3417. Churchill Downs, registration- 9:30 a.m., walk- 10:30 a.m.

**October 17- Women 4 Women Free Financial Planning Meetings.** October 17, 24, & November 14, 21. Participants are expected to attend all four of the classes in order to receive a certificate. Families welcome and a meal is included. For more information and to register, contact Kasey Blackford at 561-8060 x.227 or [kasey@w4w.org](mailto:kasey@w4w.org). Meyzeek Middle School, 828 S. Jackson Street, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**October 19, 2011 Stand Down/Project Homeless Connect.** Provides relief for homeless veterans and other homeless persons by giving them a chance to receive needed food, clothing, medical care, social and psychological counseling. For more information, contact Todd Dedas at Veterans Hospital- 287-4176. Dismas Charities St. Anne Campus, 1515 Algonquin Parkway, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**October 19- Center for Accessible Living Disability Mentoring Day.** For students and job seekers (18 or over) with a disability who are interested in job shadowing a professional. For more information, go to [www.calky.org/events](http://www.calky.org/events) or contact Larry at 589-6620.

**October 19- More Than A Roof Documentary.** Sponsored by Women in Transition, The National Economic and Social Justice Initiative, and The Campaign to Restore National Housing Rights. Documents people facing homelessness, foreclosure, and the destruction and neglect of our nation's affordable housing stock. Contact Charlotte Craxton at 636-0160 or [housinginfo@witky.org](mailto:housinginfo@witky.org) for more information. Centennial Room, Louisville Free Public Library, 301 York Street, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**October 22- P.A.I.N.T. Project Community Build Day- GOAT(desic) Domes: Exploring our Connections.** Assist in the construction of a community garden's geodesic domes. Organized by the Center for Neighborhoods. For more information, contact Lisa at 589-0343 or [lisad@centerforneighborhoods.org](mailto:lisad@centerforneighborhoods.org). Billy Goat Hill Community Garden. Payne Street- across from the Clifton Center, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**October 22- ACLU of KY Annual Bill of Rights Dinner.** Features Keynote Speaker Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now! For more information or to purchase tickets, go to [www.aclu-ky.org](http://www.aclu-ky.org) or call 581-9746. KY Center for African American Heritage, 1701 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd., reception- 5:30 p.m., dinner- 6:30 p.m.

**October 23- Choices, Inc.- Dedication and Open House for New Service Space.** For more information, call 585-3780. 419 S. Shelby Street, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Ceremony at 3:00 p.m.

**October 26- Family Scholar House 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon-** Features guest speaker Lucille O'Neal telling her story of triumph over the challenges of life as a single mother. For more information or for reservations, contact Rachel Foster at 584-8090. Archibald-Cochran Ballroom, Galt House, 140 N. 4th Street, registration -11:00 a.m., luncheon- 11:30 a.m.

**October 27- Louisville Urban League 2011 Preserving Homeownership Fair.** Provides opportunities to: speak with your lender (representatives of PNC, 5/3 Bank, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Chase Bank, and KY Housing Corporation will be available), speak with housing counselors, and attend workshops on foreclosure and bankruptcy. Pre-register at [www.lul.org](http://www.lul.org), or call 561-6830 x.122 for more information. KY Center for African American Heritage, 1701 West Muhammad Ali Blvd., 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**November 1- Center for Non-Profit Excellence Annual Conference: Breaking Boundaries for Breakthrough Results.** Features New York University Professor Paul Light as keynote speaker and facilitator. Luncheon also features presentations of CNPE's 2011 Pyramid Awards for Non-Profit Excellence and a speech by Mayor Greg Fischer. For more information, go to [www.cnpe.org](http://www.cnpe.org) or call 315-2673. Galt House East, 140 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, conference- 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., luncheon-12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**November 5 - 4th Annual Race to End Homelessness.** Benefits the Coalition for the Homeless. For more information and to register, go to [www.racetoendhomelessness.org](http://www.racetoendhomelessness.org) or call 636-9550. Cherokee Park, 9:00 a.m.

**November 8- Midtown Money Talks Financial Workshop Series.** November's topic is Budgeting/Money Management at Home. Held on the first Tuesday of each month through June 5, 2012. For more information, contact Lisa Thompson at [lisat@ndhc.org](mailto:lisat@ndhc.org) or 719-7106. The Cardinal Ritter Birthplace, 1218 East Oak Street, New Albany, 6:00 p.m.

**November 10- 5th Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture.** Dr. Michelle Alexander's lecture is entitled "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness." Free & open to the public. For more information, contact Amber Duke at [agduke01@louisville.edu](mailto:agduke01@louisville.edu) or 852-6142. Speed Art Museum Auditorium, 5:30 p.m.

**October through January- Project Warm Service Activities.** Project Warm Blitz helps seniors over 60 and those with disabilities prepare their homes for winter. Energy Management Workshops will teach people how to winterize their homes. For more information, call 636-9276 or email [info@projectwarm.org](mailto:info@projectwarm.org). Volunteers are needed to assist with activities, especially in October and November.

## Help Raise Money for MHC at No Cost to You!

### *Do you shop at Kroger? If so, participate in the Mid-South Kroger Fund Raising Program!*

#### How does it work?

- 1) Buy a \$5 Kroger Gift Card from MHC. This card starts with a \$5 balance.
- 2) Add money to your Kroger Gift Card at any Kroger Customer service desk or any Kroger register.
- 3) Use your gift card to buy your groceries or get gas at a Kroger station.
- 4) Refill your gift card when your balance is low and keep using it to make your Kroger purchases.
- 5) **Each time you refill your gift card, Kroger will donate 4% of your recharge amount to MHC.**

#### How can I sign up?

There are three ways you can sign up and get a MHC Kroger Fund Raiser Gift Card.

- 1) Send a check for \$5 to MHC, PO Box 4533, Louisville KY 40205. Be sure to include your mailing address and write Kroger Card on the "for" line of your check. We'll then mail you a gift card.
- 2) Make a \$5 donation online at [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org). Be sure to type "Kroger Card" in the Comment box of the donation page. MHC will then send your gift card in the mail.
- 3) Call MHC at 584-6858 or email [curtisstaufer@metropolitanhousing.org](mailto:curtisstaufer@metropolitanhousing.org) and make arrangements to stop by MHC offices to pay for and pick up your card.

## *Join MHC or Renew Your Membership Today!*

For membership questions, please call the office at (502) 584-6858 and speak with Curtis Stauffer.  
To make an online donation, visit us on the web at [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org).



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