



Metropolitan Housing Coalition

September 2021 Newsletter



was a success for MHC!

Thank you for your support!

Because of your generous donation, the Metropolitan Housing Coalition was able to meet and exceed our funding goals! Thank you to all that participated in the day of giving and for showing up for fair, accessible, and affordable housing in Louisville!

Our successes:

- \$13,005 in total donations
- 132 unique donors
- 82nd out of 550+ organizations in total unique donors
- Accessed all three prize pools
- 5 matching gifts!

Louisville Participates in National Housing Solutions Collaborative Convening

On September 15th and 16th, Louisville participated in a national convening known as the Housing Solutions Collaborative.

What is the Housing Solutions Collaborative?

The Housing Solutions Collaborative is administered by Change Lab Solutions, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that uses the tools of law and policy to advance health equity. Change Lab Solutions partners with communities across the nation to improve health and opportunity by changing harmful laws, policies, and systems.

Who participated from Louisville?

- Metropolitan Housing Coalition
- Center for Neighborhoods
- Age Friendly Louisville
- Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Louisville Urban League
- Coalition for the Homeless
- Office of Councilmember Chambers Armstrong
- Office of Housing

What did we do at the convening?

During the convening, Louisville was able to hear about challenges and successes related to equitable housing policy from representatives from eight cities including Buffalo, NY; Chesterfield County, VA; Madison, WI; Oakland County, MI; Omaha, NE; Orange County, NC; and Tulsa, OK. During the convening, the Louisville team identified a number of specific challenges to be addressed including reviewing zoning approval procedures that inhibit the production of affordable housing in all neighborhoods, strengthening judicial practices that have started during COVID-19 to strengthen tenant rights in the eviction process, and strategies to prevent displacement of homeowners and renters in areas experiencing new and increased investment.

Over the course of the next year, Louisville will work with the interdisciplinary team at ChangeLab Solutions to identify and research policy priorities that can improve access to affordable housing across all areas of Louisville.

Board Member Spotlight:

Mandy Simpson



Tell us a little bit about your organization and the focus of your work?

Metro United Way fights for equity and opportunity in education, economic mobility, and health across our seven-county region in Kentuckiana. Because no one person or organization can dismantle systemic inequities alone, MUW's mobilizes the power of donors, volunteers, thought leaders, fellow nonprofits and government leaders to tackle root-cause challenges. As Director of Public Policy, I work with lived-experience experts, advocates, public officials, and legislators at local, state, and federal levels to ensure powerful programming and informed policymaking move together to empower our neighbors and our community.

Why do you do the work you do everyday?

Because what policy has built, programming alone can never transform. As nonprofits, we must grasp every lever of change--including and especially nonpartisan advocacy--to fuel impact and build a community in which all people can thrive.

MHC's objective expertise and research-based recommendations remain a vital foundation for service strategies and policymaking with the annual State of Metropolitan Housing Report serving as a roadmap to equitable reforms and investments. Serving as a board member provides a tremendous opportunity to support these critical efforts as a professional and a neighbor.

What are the Top 3 fair, accessible, and affordable housing challenges Louisville needs to confront?

1. Building affordable housing for people at all income levels with an initial focus on those living below 30% AMI (Shout out to Celine Mutuyemariya, who listed this priority number one in her spotlight last month, too--The need is crippling. The movement is real!)
2. Supporting reforms that incorporate inclusionary zoning strategies to address residential housing segregation by income, race and ethnicity, and household type
3. Preventing and mitigating the long-term damages of eviction by providing resource and legal navigation for tenants and implementing eviction expungement processes

If you had a magic wand for a day, what housing policy would you implement in Louisville? Why is this important?

I would break down statutory and administrative barriers to tenants and landlords receiving the \$100 million of rental assistance Kentucky has yet to distribute. No one should endure eviction for nonpayment during a pandemic while dollars that could keep them housed and make their landlords whole sit on the table.

Why do you serve on the MHC Board?

For decades, MHC has equipped local organizations, institutions, elected officials-- and most importantly--residents with the insights, data, and tools needed to advocate for and provide fair, accessible, and affordable housing for everyone in our community.

Thank you Mandy Simson for sharing. Stay tuned for the November Newsletter to hear from another MHC board member.

Unprecedented Federal Resources for Affordable Housing is Possible! Join the Effort Now!

We are at a critical moment in negotiations for significant investment in our housing infrastructure as a part of the \$3.5 trillion "Build Back Better" federal infrastructure and economic recovery package. On September 14th, The House Financial Services Committee voted to approve landmark legislation investing \$327 billion in affordable housing. The House Budget Committee voted on Saturday, September 25th along party lines to advance the Build Back Better Act to the House Rules Committee in preparation for a full vote on the House floor. The full vote in the House could take place as soon as this week.

The bill includes unprecedented funding for housing targeted to those with the lowest incomes including \$90 billion for rental assistance, with \$75 billion for Housing Choice Vouchers and \$15 billion for Project-Based Rental Assistance.

The bill also provides \$80 billion in much needed funds to preserve public housing for millions of current and future individuals and families across the country. Finally, the bill provides \$37 billion for National Housing Trust Fund activities, a critical source of funds for the production of new units of affordable housing targeted to low income citizens.

[Click Here to Read the Full Bill](#)

As negotiations regarding the larger infrastructure package continue over the next several weeks, it is critical that advocates ensure that these priorities are not cut from the final package. Let your Senators and Representatives know that it is past time that all citizens have an affordable place to call home.

You can also sign on to the NLIHC's most recent letter to congress:

[Click Here to Take Action!](#)

Bill Introduced to Reinstate Federal Eviction Moratorium

On September 21st, Rep. Cori Bush of Missouri and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts introduced a new bill to reinstate the federal eviction moratorium. The bill would give the Department of Health and Human Services permanent authority to enact an eviction ban during public health crises.

Ample research has shown that the eviction ban was extremely important in helping to reduce the spread of COVID-19 while it was in place. (1,2)

In addition to helping to curb the spread of COVID-19, a reinstated moratorium will allow states and localities additional time to distribute the \$46.5 Billion in rental assistance funds

to landlords and tenants who are experiencing significant financial hardship due to the economic fallout associated with the pandemic. Ensuring that states and localities have the time to equitably distribute these critical resources is essential to preventing the long term consequences that eviction has on the health and wellbeing of millions of children and adults in Louisville and across the country.

[Click Here to Read Bill](#)

(1) <https://academic.oup.com/aje/advance-article/doi/10.1093/aje/kwab196/6328194>

(2) <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hpb20210315.747908/full/health-affairs-brief-housing-health-equity-himmelstein.pdf>

Housing is Number One Priority for ARPA funds!

On August 26th, Metro Council passed a [resolution](#) establishing priority areas for use of the American Rescue Plan Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allocated to Louisville Metro Government.

We are so pleased that [Housing and Homelessness was the number one need identified by Louisville citizens](#) and is thus a key focus for the use of the funds! In his press release, Mayor Fischer recommended “using a good amount of the ARP funding to significantly reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness. That includes transitional housing, permanent supportive housing and other forms of affordable housing, particularly directed at Louisville’s lowest-income residents and those suffering from mental health and substance use disorder, who have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency.”

MHC believes that at least half of the \$340 million be used to create new units of housing for people currently experiencing homelessness and for those with the lowest incomes in Louisville. This may seem like a lot, but the reality is that simply creating housing for the 833 households who were identified during the last Point-in-Time Count of the homeless in Louisville, (which is meant only to show a single moment picture of homeless and does not capture the full need of those who experience ongoing housing instability), is estimated to cost approximately \$119 million alone. Making a dent in the over 31,000 units that are needed to meet the housing needs of all of the lowest income citizens in our city will require significantly more investment.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to put Louisville on a path towards ensuring that all of our citizens have the opportunity to receive the many educational, economic, physical and mental health benefits that are derived from an adequate supply of housing. We are a stronger city when all citizens have access to safe, fair and affordable housing!

We encourage you to stay engaged in discussions regarding the distribution of ARPA funds in Louisville. Follow MHC on social media for the latest updates and opportunities to have your voice heard!

[Click Here to follow MHC on Facebook](#)

[Click Here to follow MHC on Twitter](#)

[Click Here to follow MHC on LinkedIn](#)

Support IDs for People Experiencing Homelessness!

Having a state-issued ID is a prerequisite for full participation in public life, and for too many Kentuckians experiencing homelessness, the lack of ID can be a barrier to applying for housing, employment, voting, and other support services. In 2017, an article in Pew Stateline described the situation in stark terms: “not having ID can make it virtually impossible to escape homelessness.”

The Kentucky State legislature will meet in 2022 for their next regular session. This is ideal time to update our ID statutes concerning people who do not have an established and fixed nighttime residence of regular return, and the homeless service providers who serve them.

Your organization can support this legislation [here](#).

Community Calendar- Upcoming Events

- **West End Opportunity Partnership Board Meeting - September 29, 2021**
 - Attend in person (limited space) or via zoom
 - Click [HERE](#) for more information on how to attend
- **Save the Date: West End Opportunity Partnership/ Tax Increment Financing Community Panel**
 - October 19th, 2021
 - MHC and U of L (Center for Environmental Policy & Management) is hosting a community event to discuss the WEOP TIF
 - Senator Neal (district 33) attending the discussion panel, as well as other community advocates
 - Stay tuned for more information!
- **First of Five Meetings About City Restrictions for Childcare Providers**
 - The office of Planning and Design Services(PDS) is reviewing existing city restrictions on where child providers can reside and their size. Attend the first open house on October 5th at 7pm.
 - How to attend: www.webex.com, meeting number #2318-266-1594, password is Daycare2021
 - For more information, click [here](#).
 - Up next in October: PDS evaluates housing related restrictions!
- **West End Opportunity Partnership- informational meetings**

Flyer [Link](#) to learn more!

 - Meeting Every Saturday at 9am
 - Zoom meeting [Link](#)
 - or call in at +1 (301) 715-8592 US
 - Meeting Every Thursday at 6:30 pm
 - Zoom meeting [Link](#)
 - or call in at +1 (646) 558-8656 US
- **Fair Housing Coalition**
 - Meets at 2:00pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
 - Virtual meeting link sent the week of meeting
- **Louisville Vacant Property Campaign**
 - Meets at 5:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month

Home Repair Loans available with LHOME

- If you or someone you know needs help with financing home repairs, click [HERE](#) to learn more about getting up to \$10,000!

[KyRenterHelp.org](#) : provide Legal Aid Services and rental assistance

- Managed by Kentucky Equal Justice Center (KEJC)
- This tool is designed to connect you with the people and organizations in your community who can help renters apply for rental assistance and avoid eviction.

[Stop My Eviction](#) and the South Louisville community ministries are hosting weekly clinics for home renters to apply for assistance

- every Thursday 10-2 at 415 1/2 West Ashland ave. Louisville, Ky 40214



- (1) Go to www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com.
- (2) Look for "I'm a Customer" and click "View Details."
- (3) Sign in with your existing Kroger account, or create a new account.
- (4) Enter the code BA764 in the "Find an Organization" search box - click "Search."
- (5) When Metropolitan Housing Coalition pops up, simply click "Enroll."

- (1) Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
- (2) From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page.
- (3) Search "Metropolitan Housing Coalition" and click "Select" to support.



Both our printed newsletter and our eNewsletter are made possible by the generous support of PNC Bank.



MHC would like to thank Louisville Metro Government for its continuing support of our outreach efforts.