California’s Housing Affordability Solutions

It wasn’t always this bad, and we know how to solve it.

It wasn’t long ago that a family with only one parent working an average job could afford to buy a home close to where he or she worked. It also wasn’t long ago that seeing someone experiencing homelessness was a rare event.

Times have clearly changed. Today, Californians face severe housing affordability burdens, people have to work multiple jobs just to afford an apartment, and homelessness has skyrocketed.

How Did We Get Here?

- California has fallen so far behind in building affordable rental housing that we now have a shortage of more than 1.5 million affordable apartments needed to meet the demand.
- Local and state government have not provided the financial backing and land opportunities to meet this demand.
- In fact, investment and planning for affordable housing has decreased, while wages have remained stagnant or even decreased, and housing costs have gone up!
- Californians everywhere are having to make impossible choices between things like rent and groceries, rent and medicine, rent and bus fare to work. This is unacceptable!

We Have Solutions!

- Policy decisions created the affordability problem and policy decisions will solve them.
- Investment, good planning and zoning, rental protections and anti-displacement strategies are all needed as solutions.

Source: California Housing Partnership Corporation, The Critical Role of Housing Access and Affordability in Reducing Poverty, April 2015
An affordable home helps families stay healthy and save money for the future.

Facts

1. It wasn’t long ago that California was an affordable place to live.
2. Deliberate policy decisions made by elected leaders (local, state, and federal) created California's housing affordability problem.
3. Deliberate policy decisions made by elected leaders (local, state, and federal) can solve California’s housing affordability problem.
4. The answer to homelessness is a home.
5. This is a solvable problem.

“People understand California has a housing affordability crisis, but don’t know where to begin to fix it. We have to start by passing bold policy solutions. For instance, California needs to invest in a state housing trust fund that supports successful housing programs that are helping families break the cycle of poverty.”

- Shamus Roller, executive director, National Housing Law Project

About RUN

The California Residents United Network (RUN) is a first-of-its-kind, statewide, resident base of power.

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The California Residents United Network (RUN) is a project of: