



The clergy and the faith community have a strong legacy addressing social issues such as homelessness and housing affordability in Toronto. That legacy can be found in shelters, affordable homes and other supportive work across the city that would not exist without the efforts of faith leaders and dedicated volunteers.

The many innovative ideas and success stories produced by faith groups provide a solid foundation on which to build for the future. For those wishing to contribute to that great legacy of providing affordable housing opportunities, here are **Four Action Areas** to assist in choosing the best path forward.

Resources

Below are some of the resources that can be used to support affordable housing:

The Toronto Housing Charter – Opportunity for All
toronto.ca/affordablehousing/pdf/housingcharter_may8.pdf

Housing Opportunities Toronto (HOT): An Affordable Housing Action Plan 2010 - 2010, City of Toronto
toronto.ca/affordablehousing/pdf/hot_actionplan.pdf

Shelter, Support & Housing Administration, City of Toronto
toronto.ca/housing/index.htm

In From the Margins: A Call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness, Report of the Senate Subcommittee on Cities
parl.gc.ca/40/2/parlbus/commbus/senate/com-e/citi-e/rep-e/rep02dec09-e.pdf

The Ontario Human Rights Commission Policy on Human Rights and Rental Housing and other helpful materials
ohrc.on.ca/en/resources/news/policylaunch

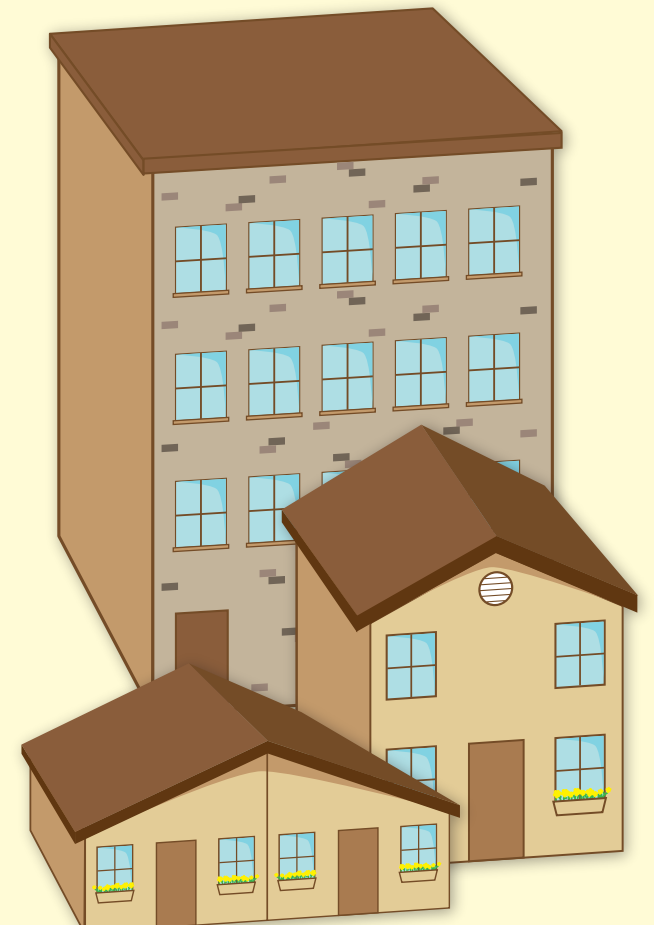
Housing in my Backyard: A Municipal Guide for Responding to NIMBY published by ACT – Affordability and Choice Today
actprogram.com/CMFiles/CRA_ACT_NIMBYGuide_WebEN.pdf

The Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) report: The Case for a Systematic Solution to Discriminatory NIMBY Opposition in Ontario.
This and other NIMBY resources can be found at
onpha.on.ca/AM/Template.cfm?Section=NIMBY

Yes in my Backyard – prepared by the HomeComing Community Choice Coalition.
homecomingcoalition.com/

For more information go to
toronto.ca/housingportal/

Affordable Housing and the Faith Community



Four Action Areas

1. Advocate for Affordable Housing

The faith community is a powerful and effective lobby with federal, provincial and municipal governments.

To run a lobbying campaign in support of affordable housing, it can be useful to convene a roundtable of people with lobbying expertise and a successful track record. It's a good way to develop goals, objectives, strategies, tactics, a communication and media plan, performance measures and responsibilities.

By using letters, emails, telephone calls and meetings with MPs, MPPs and City Councillors, faith groups can help ensure affordable housing funding and programs remain a priority on the political agenda.

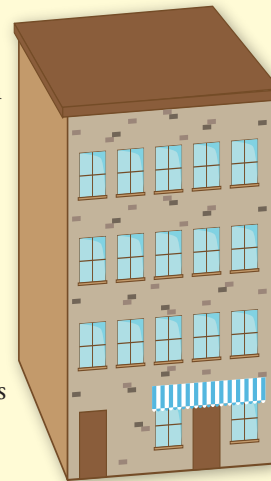


2. Financially Support Housing and Homelessness Services

Faith groups can contribute to a housing fund to provide grants for affordable and supportive housing. Donations could be earmarked through Planned Giving Programs. Organizations that provide housing services often need support. Faith groups can assist by:

- Paying for a staff position for a year
- Buying programming for supportive housing
- Paying for resource materials
- Providing office space and administrative support
- Paying for eviction-prevention services
- Contributing to programs that find permanent housing for people
- Matching funds for rent banks.

These options can be attractive to funders because they support initiatives with an immediate impact.



3. Create New Affordable Housing

Faith groups can assist in creating affordable housing when partnered with an experienced team. Such a team could include a private or non-profit developer, a consultant or a service provider who would handle the social supports tenants may need to remain housed.

Another option is to partner with a developer by offsetting a portion of the construction costs of some of the units to create mixed housing with both affordable homes and market-price condominiums. Or condominium units can be purchased and provided to lower-income tenants at affordable rents.

Real estate owned by faith groups may also be used to create affordable housing or leveraged to assist in the provision of on-going supports.

4. Rally Community Support

Faith groups can play an important role in smoothing the introduction of affordable or supportive housing in a community. They can help counteract NIMBYism (Not In My Back Yard) and protect human rights by establishing a local housing advocacy group or a city-wide interfaith network. They can join forces with supporters in the community, hold letter-writing parties, speak out at public and committee meetings, meet with politicians, contact the media and write letters-to-the-editor.