

# FINDING HOME

## Central Ohio's action plan to close our housing gaps, a supplement to the *Finding Home in the Heart of it All* report

The “*Finding Home in the Heart of it All*” report presents a compelling vision for Central Ohio, one in which the key to unlocking academic ascendency, economic prosperity, and a healthy community all hinge on first addressing our affordable housing needs. This unbiased data and empirical research adds to an overwhelming body of evidence that proves housing investments are a tide that lifts all ships and one that best positions our entire region for the future.

Thankfully Central Ohio is poised to act. We have spent a decade planning, studying, assessing, and preparing for this moment. The solutions are evident, and our capacity is abundant. By working together, this is a surmountable challenge from which we will emerge as a national model of success. With much of this work already underway, our ability to scale and expand is evident.

The Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio stands ready to support our people and our leaders in executing the following evidence-based strategies, which can cut our housing gap in half in the coming years:

- Increase access to low-cost loans to finance affordable construction;
- Expand grant funding for affordable housing creation and preservation;
- Create sustainable resources for rental assistance and permanent supportive housing;
- Launch a regional eviction prevention system to triage emergency needs;
- Adopt local protections and enforcement mechanisms to end income discrimination;
- Support equitable homeownership with robust homebuyer assistance programs;
- Protect homeownership through fair taxation and home repair tools; and
- Promote a diverse and ready workforce with housing-stabilized training and trade programs.

These actions are pragmatic, proven, and feasible. Moreover, the “*Finding Home in the Heart of it All*” report demonstrates that a failure to invest in these solutions today would only result in greater spending on greater problems tomorrow.

Assembling this toolkit, and scaling it to meet our region's growing needs takes all of us. From elected officials, to businesses, to nonprofit leaders, to each one of us as members of a powerful collective, we must stand up and give voice to these needs. This means joining public meetings, sharing your housing expectations with policymakers, supporting innovative programs, and showing authentic concern for our neighbors' wellbeing.

We can do this. And we will do this. Not only because we are a community that truly cares for each other. But also because the success of our children's schools depends on it. The growth of our careers depends on it. And the health of our parents and friends depends on it.