

# Health, Housing, and Habitat

How You Can Advocate From Home



Habitat for Humanity

# What is Habitat for Humanity?

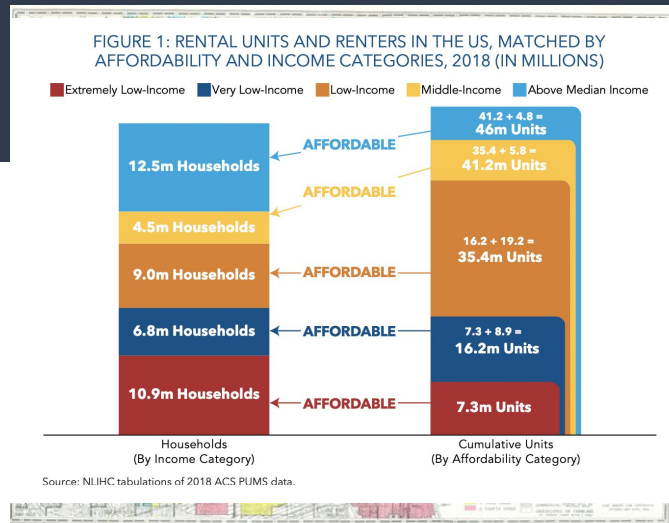


# History of Housing Inequality

- (1937) The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) was founded to address the Great Depression's impact on housing.
- Redlining was the tool used by mortgage lenders and banks to refuse mortgage loans to low-income, specifically minority, individuals.



- (1970s) White flight occurred as white residents fled to suburbs while redlining practices prevented residents of color from making the same move.
- People of color who sit at the intersection of racial discrimination and poverty must struggle with these two factors that directly impact their access to fair housing.

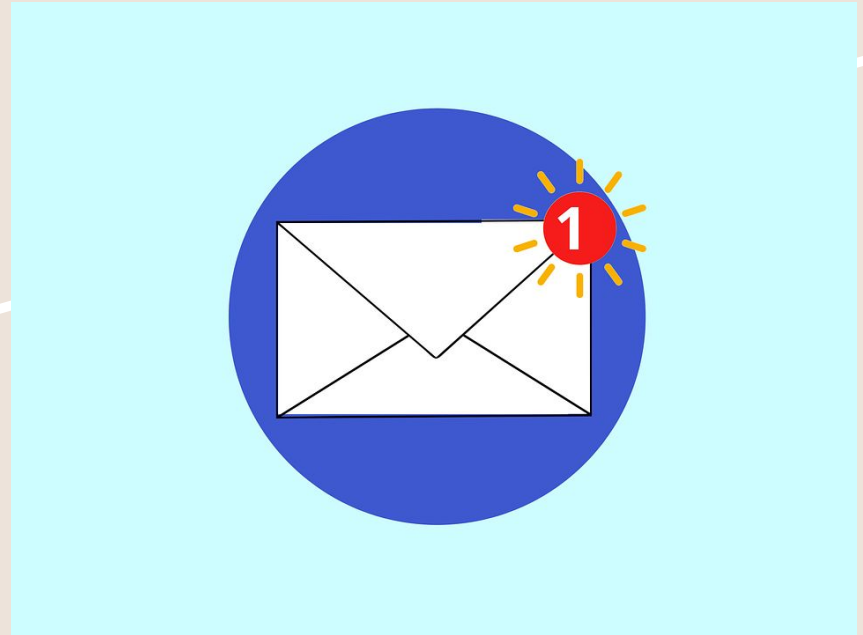


# Housing in the time of COVID-19



- Nearly 16.5 million renter households have at least one member working in an industry immediately affected by efforts to flatten the curve.
- The CARES Act has only provided temporary and minimal relief for impacted communities.
- Advocates for housing stability have been calling for rent relief programs to help offset long term financial pressure among renters.

# How you can advocate from home!



# Guaranteed Housing Stability Act (bill H.5018)

- About 100,000 Massachusetts families, particularly communities of color and immigrant communities are at risk of eviction now that the state's eviction moratorium has expired
- The Guaranteed Housing Stability act ensures rental relief, provides protection to landlords from lost revenue, and will last one year after the state of emergency has ended.
- November 2nd, the act was discharged to the committee on House Rules, where it remains stagnant



# Waltham Armory



- WATCH and MetroWestCD are advocating for the city to purchase the abandoned Waltham Armory and convert it into permanently affordable housing
- The proposal is for 17 units for residents making 60% Area Median Income and 6 units for residents making 30% Area Median Income
- The Community Preservation Committee has approved \$5 million and MetroWest CD will receive \$7 million from federal and state tax dollars



# Reach Out!

## Guaranteed Housing Stability Act

- Senate Chair, Joan Lovely:
  - (617)722-1410
  - [Joan.Lovely@masenate.gov](mailto:Joan.Lovely@masenate.gov)
- House Chair, William Galvin:
  - (617)722-2692
  - [William.Galvin@mahouse.gov](mailto:William.Galvin@mahouse.gov)
- City Life Vida Urbana
  - [http://www.clvu.org/call\\_for\\_housing\\_stability](http://www.clvu.org/call_for_housing_stability)

## Waltham Armory

- Councillors At Large
  - Paul J. Brasco: (781) 209-2567
    - [pbrasco@brascofuneralhome.com](mailto:pbrasco@brascofuneralhome.com)
  - Kathleen B. McMenimen: (781) 894-1247
    - [kmcmenimen@city.waltham.ma.us](mailto:kmcmenimen@city.waltham.ma.us)
  - Carlos A. Vidal: (781) 899-2282
    - [cvidal@city.waltham.ma.us](mailto:cvidal@city.waltham.ma.us)
  - Patrick O'Brien: (781) 891-5239
    - [pobrien@city.waltham.ma.us](mailto:pobrien@city.waltham.ma.us)
  - Randall J. LeBlanc: (781)373-2465
    - [rleblanc@city.waltham.ma.us](mailto:rleblanc@city.waltham.ma.us)
  - Thomas M. Stanley: (617) 529-4279
    - [thomas.stanley@mahouse.gov](mailto:thomas.stanley@mahouse.gov)



# Generic Scripts

"Hi, my name is **[your name]** and I live at **[your address]**. I have a comment for **[name of Senator or Representative you're calling.]** I'm calling because I'm really worried about all the potential evictions due to COVID-19. This is an emergency and I want your office to fight to get the Guaranteed Housing Stability bill approved by the Housing Committee immediately. This bill is H.5018. A big wave of evictions would hurt vulnerable groups and people of color the most. It would also be a danger to public health for everyone. Please pass this bill to protect us. Thank you very much."

"Hi, my name is **[your name]** and I live at **[your address]**. I have a comment for **[name of City Council Member you're calling.]** I'm calling because there is a lack of affordable housing for Waltham's low-wage workers. There is a 3-5 year wait period to get into Waltham public housing and very few options for safe and affordable housing. Increased affordable housing decreases housing instability, which has been shown to benefit a community's health and prosperity. Please vote in favor of this project. Thank you very much."

Thank you! Any Questions??



# Tips & Tricks for Local Advocacy

- Find out when your local town meetings are occurring and try to attend virtually
- Choose a topic that you are interested in and find a local non-profit that you can support
- Don't spread yourself too thin, pick only one or two places to support(join their email list, see what they are advocating for and share their message wherever you can)
  - We know that there are many areas of need, but you are more help when you are not trying to do everything at once so find a project or two that really drives you
- If you want to support something not in your local area, try looking for places to donate
  - We understand this isn't always feasible, but it is a way to support from afar