

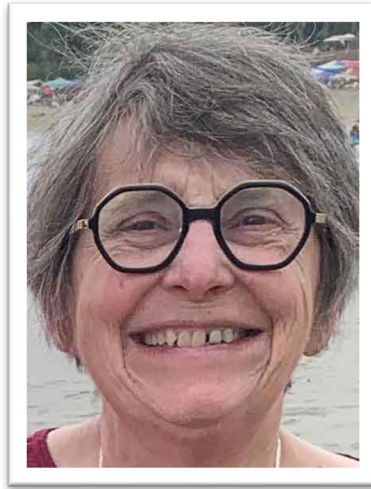
# Welcome to MICAH's St. Paul 2023 Virtual Bus Tour!

Tour Guide: John Slade, Community Organizer

**MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour**



# Welcome



**Host:** Elaine Tarone  
St. Matthew's Episcopal

And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly  
and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (MICAH 6:8)

**MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour**





# Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing



**MICAHA lives out the prophetic vision that calls us  
"to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God."  
(Micah 6:8).**

**MICAHA envisions a metropolitan area where everyone  
without exception has a safe, decent, accessible, and  
affordable home.**



**MICAHA's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour**



# Faith Reflection



Rev. Hans Jorgensen  
St. Timothy Lutheran Church

“Anyone who thinks they are too small to make a difference has never tried to fall asleep with a mosquito in the room.” *The Dalai Lama*

MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour



# MICAH St. Paul Chapter Meeting October 18



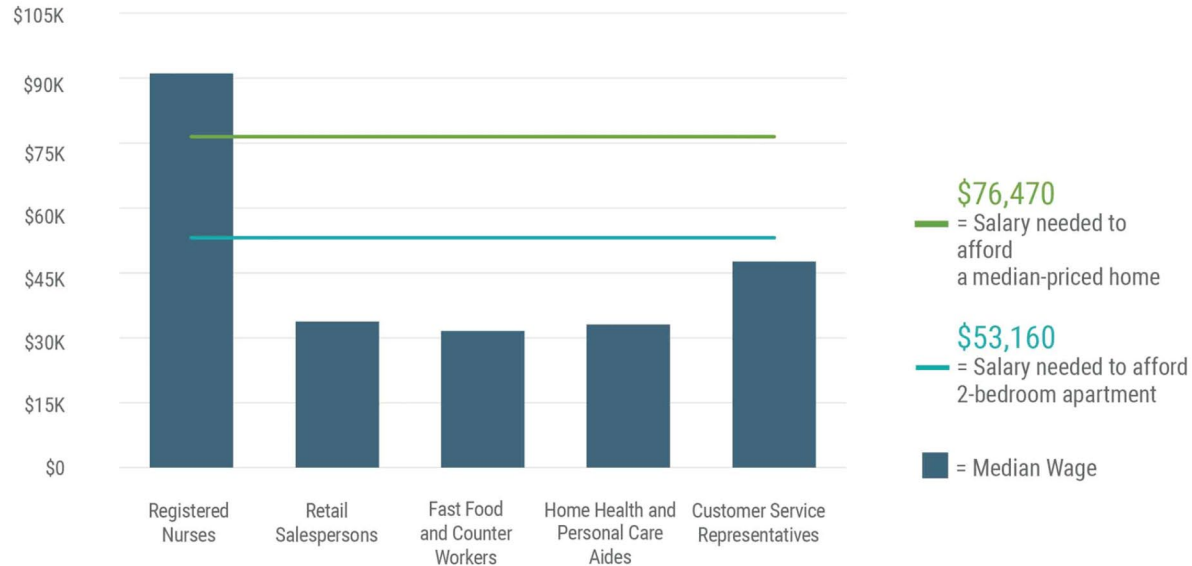
St. Timothy Lutheran Church  
Harvest Potluck 5 PM to 8 PM  
1465 Victoria St. North

**MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour**



The cost of housing is out of reach for many working Minnesotans.

THE REGION'S MOST IN-DEMAND JOBS vs RAMSEY'S COST OF HOUSING



Cost-Burdened # of households in Ramsey County	Renter:	40,780
	Owner:	23,987
	Total:	64,767

MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour



# Rules of the Bus

- Our meeting is being recorded so others can review it later.
- Please stay muted and keep your camera off until you are called on.
- Jean will be our timekeeper during the presentations.
- To ask a question - raise your hand on camera, click the “raise hand” button, or comment in the chat.
- If at any point the audio or video presentation seems choppy, try turning off your camera feed.
- No spitballs!

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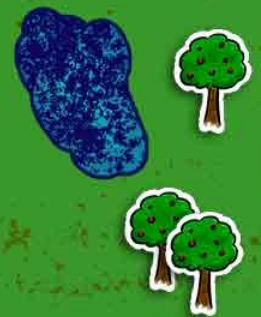
*Are you ready?*

**Let's get on board!**

MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour









**FREEDOM FROM THE STREETS**

**Presenter:**

Junail Freeman Anderson, Founder and President,  
Freedom from the Streets



Freedom from the Streets was founded in 2019 by homeless, recently homeless, and people on the verge of being homeless. Before COVID they met weekly in Minneapolis and St. Paul. During the pandemic and the George Floyd uprising, they were a part of the Sanctuary Movement, and helped organize and stabilize camps, hotels, and shelters.

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*Thank You,*

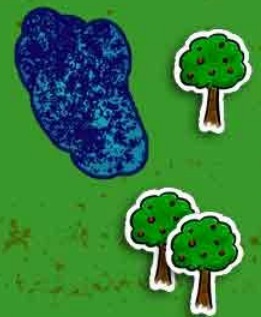
**Freedom From the Streets**

[freedomfromthestreets.fj5@gmail.com](mailto:freedomfromthestreets.fj5@gmail.com)

**Let's get to our next stop!**

**MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour**





East Side  
Freedom  
Library



FREEDOM FROM THE STREETS



St. Paul Capitol Building



East Side  
Community  
Investment  
Cooperative



CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
Twin Cities



MICAH





CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
*Twin Cities*

**Presenter:**

Lorna Schmidt

Director of Public Policy & Advocacy



**Catholic Charities Dorothy Day Place** is an integrated two-building campus designed to prevent and end homelessness by focusing on three components: dignified shelter, permanent homes, and dedicated services that will create pathways to opportunities.

Emergency shelter services provided through the Higher Ground St. Paul Shelter and St. Paul Opportunity Center are a critical part of the region's homelessness response system. Higher Ground St. Paul Shelter operates more than 55% of the emergency shelter beds for single adults in Ramsey County, and the St. Paul Opportunity Center helps nearly 500 unique individuals each day meet their basic needs and access services.

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# Catholic Charities Twin Cities

- Housing, emergency shelter, and direct services provider serving 20,000+ children, families and adults each year
- More than 10,000 seek services at our 4 overnight emergency shelters and 2 daytime service centers
- 550,000 nights of housing and emergency shelter annually
- Nearly 1.1 million meals served
- Rooted in the community for 150 years

# Dorothy Day Campus



*Supportive Housing:*

**Dorothy Day Residence**

**Higher Ground Saint Paul Residence**

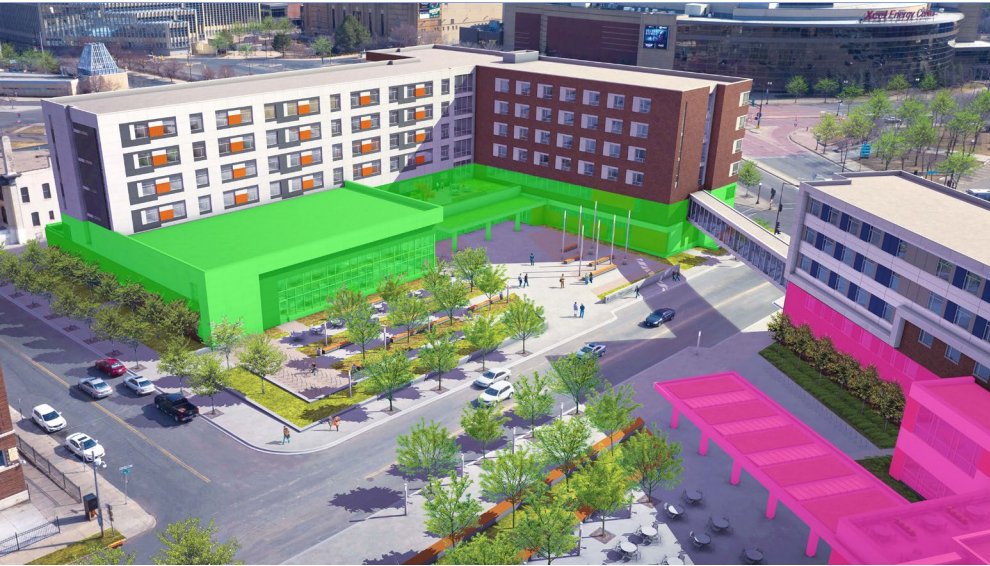
*Emergency Shelter Services:*

**Saint Paul Opportunity Center (Day Services)**

**Higher Ground Saint Paul Shelter**

Dorothy Day Campus serves over 1,000 people each day.

# Emergency Shelter Services



*Emergency Shelter Services:*  
**Saint Paul Opportunity Center (Day Services)**  
**Higher Ground Saint Paul Shelter**

274 emergency shelter beds for people experiencing homelessness.



# Community Impact



- More than 55% of shelter beds for single adults in Ramsey County
- Nearly 500 unique individuals served at SPOC each day
- More than 26,000 free meals in July 2023 alone
- More than 20 partner organizations on site offering a range of services
- Nearly 100 lockers available for guests
- An estimated 1,500+ individuals use SPOC as their mailing address

# Advocacy

- Strengthening the homelessness response through:
  - Increased public investments in shelter operations
  - Clarifying and coordinating responsibilities
- Strengthening supportive housing programs by:
  - Reforming income calculations and absence policies
  - Rethinking eligibility criteria
- Addressing housing discrimination
- Increasing the supply of deeply affordable, accessible housing



October 25, 2023

MICAH Bus Tour

18

*Thank You,*

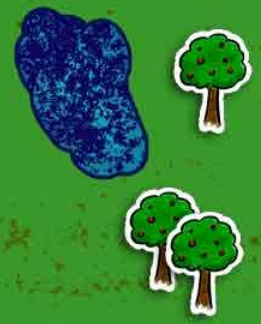
**Catholic Charities**

<https://cctwincities.org>

**Let's get to our next stop!**

**MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour**







**Presenters:**

Sidney Stuart, Housing Justice Program Co-Director

Giovonna Harris, Community Organizer, Greater East Side Community Council D2

Paris Dunning, ESABA Executive Director, Purple People BRT Campaign

Innovative grassroots housing organizing is going on across the city of St. Paul. The East Side Freedom Library hosts the East Side Housing Justice campaign (Sidney); the Greater East Side District Council (D2) has direct tenant organizing (Giovanna), and the Purple People campaign (Paris) brings together faith, business, neighborhood and transit advocates to support the Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit, which connects directly to affordable housing and community revitalization.

**MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour**



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# State of Housing on the East Side & the Housing Justice Program



# Introductions

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Housing Justice Program Co Directors:

Sidney Stuart & Ismail Khadar

ESFL Executive  
Director:

Saengmany Ratsabout

ESFL Associate  
Director:

Clarence White

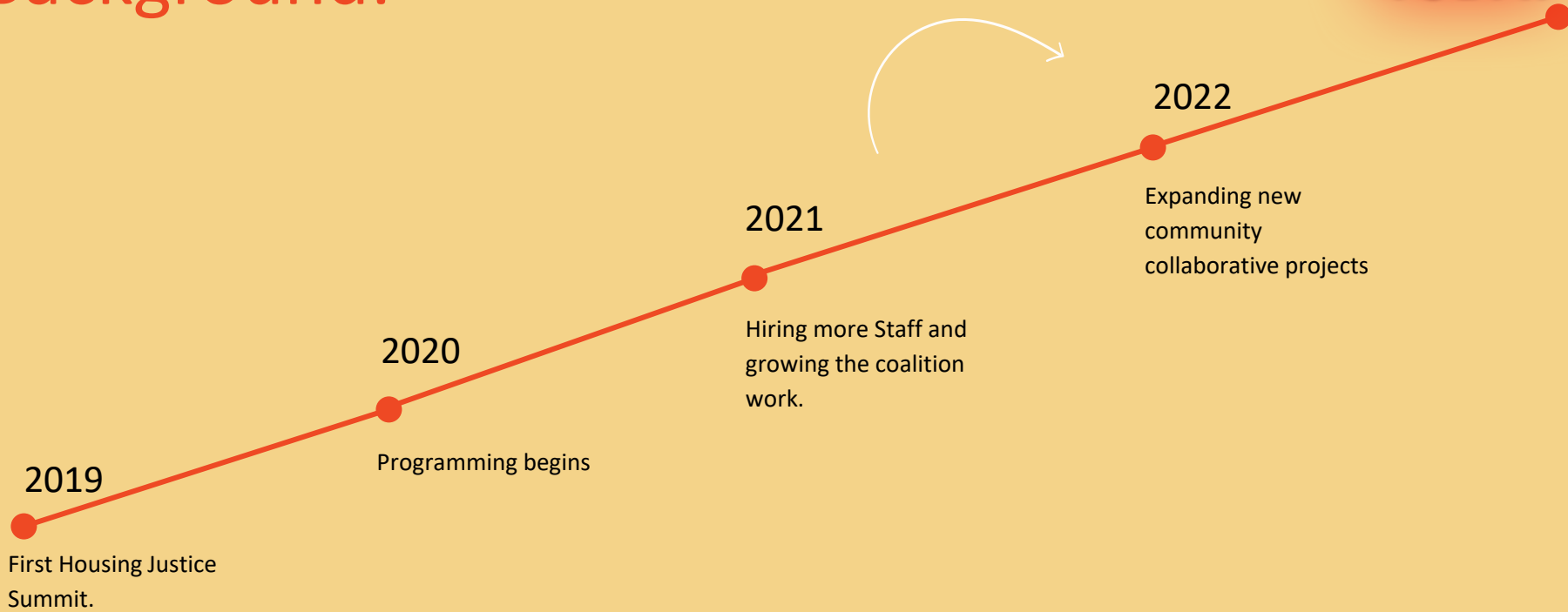


"To inspire solidarity, advocate for justice and work toward equity for all."





# Program Background:



## ABC Realty, East Side Freedom Library, and the beginning of our work

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In February 2019, ABC Realty began researching the state of housing in Minnesota, and on the East Side. We found a number of alarming figures throughout the housing market, highlighting the long-lasting effects of discriminatory policies and practices. We also found a shortage of affordable housing.

- Throughout Minnesota, 75% of white Minnesotans own their homes, while the number of people of color who own their homes is about 25%.
- On the East Side, the number of renters and homeowners who are cost-burdened by their housing is around 45%.







## Three Important Metrics:

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### Area Median Income:

The median income for the entire metropolitan area

Difficulty in Saint Paul

### Cost-Burdened:

A household is considered to be “cost-burdened” if housing costs consume more than 30 percent of household income.

### Age of the home:

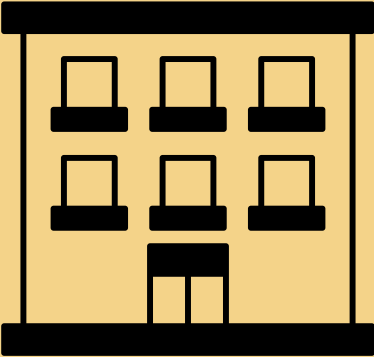
Older homes need to be renovated

# Neighborhood Breakdown:

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**Payne Phalen:**  
7,716 or 74.9% of homes are 50 years or older  
  
3965 or 43.2% of residents burdened by housing

**Dayton's Bluff:**  
5025 or 82% of the homes are 50 years or older  
2,380 or 43.1% of residents are burdened by their housing.



**Greater East Side:**  
7,189 or 69.7% of homes are 50 years or older  
3212 or 34% of residents burdened by housing.

**Battle Creek:**  
4,432 or 53.3% of homes are 50 years or older  
2,820 or 35.4% of residents burdened by housing

# How are we working towards Housing Justice on the East Side?

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Civic engagement & capacity building through  
events and coalition work

East Side Real Estate Co-operative

Arts and outreach

Working with the community to organize around issues they're  
passionate about and we're all impacted by.

Community story-telling and archiving.  
Narrative shifting work

**THANK YOU!**





Greater East Side Community Council D2  
Renters Forum  
November 8 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
Hayden Heights Library

*Thank You,*

**Eastside Freedom Library**

<https://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/>

**Greater East Side Community Council**

<https://greatereastside.org/>

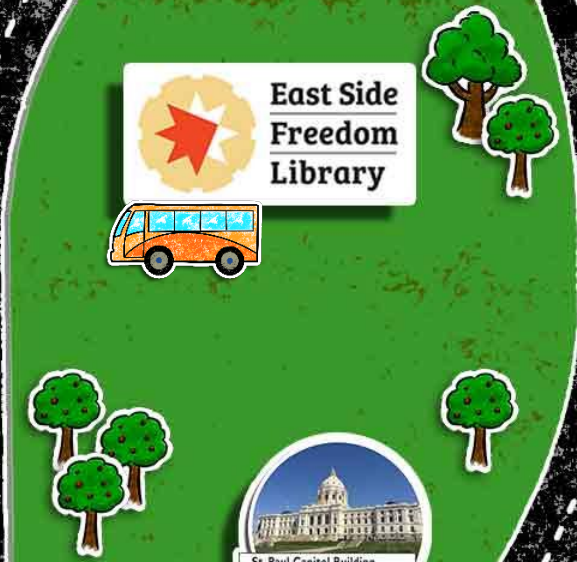
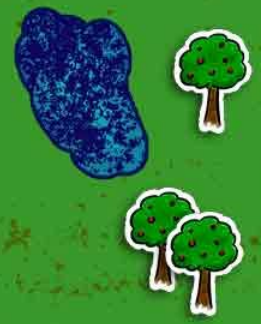
**Purple People**

<https://www.movemn.org/action/push-for-the-purple-line-on-white-bear-ave/>

**Let's get to our next stop!**

**MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour**







**Presenter:**

Daniel Suitor, Housing Attorney



Welcome to City Hall.

A year ago, in this building, the Council rolled back major protections in the City's Rent Stabilization Ordinance, exempting new construction and affordable housing when the voters chose otherwise.

City Hall is also home to the Mayor's office. Under his supervision, the Department of Safety & Inspections has chosen not to enforce violations of the Ordinance against landlords breaking the law.

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*Thank You,*

# **HOME Line**

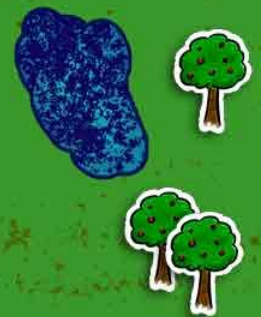
<https://homelinemn.org>

612-728-5767

# **Let's get to our next stop!**

**MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour**





*East Side  
Community  
Investment  
Cooperative*

**Presenter:**

Ianni Houmas, St. Paul Planning Commissioner  
Greater East Side Community Council D2 Board Chair



The East Side Community Investment Cooperative is a new project stemming from the values of anti-displacement, neighborhood self-determination, local ownership, equity, and keeping affordable rental possible for both businesses and residents.

This initiative is meant to be a project in small-scale democracy, allowing individual residents to have an impact in their neighborhood the same way developers and investors can.

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*Thank You,*

**East Side Community Investment Cooperative**

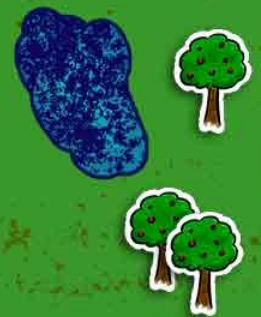
<https://www.esaba.org/business/east-side-real-estate-investment-co-op>

**Let's get to our last stop!**

**MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour**







# Updates on Federal and State Legislation



## Presenter:

Sue Watlov Phillips, MICAH Executive Director,  
Board Member, National Coalition of the Homeless



MICAH's St. Paul Affordable Housing Virtual Bus Tour





## Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing



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# MINNESOTA POLICY



## MICAH's 2023-24 Legislative Priorities Include:

1. Ensure the voice and power of people who have experienced homelessness and or housing crises are at every decision make table, design, implementation, evaluation of homeless programs and housing.
2. Work with families impacted by Lead Poisoning on Lead Safe Homes program implementation, to protect our children from lead paint poisoning.
3. Racial Equity and protection of Civil Rights in all Homeless and Housing Programs and support systems.
4. Preserve and create safe, decent accessible affordable housing (rental, shared, & homeownership) for people with incomes under 30% median income.
5. Support livable incomes for people who are employed, unemployed and on public assistance. Universal Basic Income, Child Tax Credits, Renter's Credit, Rental Assistance.
6. Ensure we are a welcoming community in creating housing opportunities that provide second chances and mercy for those who have struggled with addiction, mental and/or physical health, criminal, and/or rental issues.
7. MICAH will be actively involved with Homes For All process in developing and passing the 2024 Session priorities.





# Minnesota 2023 Legislative Successes

- [2023 MCH Legislative Outcomes](#)
- [Summary by the MN Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)
- [Summary by MN Housing](#)



## FEDERAL POLICY

### Bring America Home NOW! Campaign

The National Coalition for the Homeless is spearheading Bring America Home NOW: A Comprehensive Grassroots Campaign to End Homelessness in the U.S.

Led by people who have themselves experienced homelessness, we will focus on the passage of federal legislation aimed at addressing the interconnected solutions to the decades-long epidemic of homelessness in the United States.

#### The campaign focuses on 6 major policy areas:

1. **Housing** is a basic human right.
2. **Health** and homelessness are inextricably linked: a safe, stable home is the prerequisite of health and well-being.
3. **Livable incomes** are essential to prevent and homelessness to ensure stability in housing.
4. **Education and training** can play a critical role for - children, youth, and adults - in equipping people with the knowledge and skills needed for economic mobility.
5. **Civil Rights** - Homelessness is a civil rights issue. People experiencing homelessness should not be criminalized or victims of hate crimes.
6. **Racial Equity** - Homelessness is a racial justice issue in the United States and racial equity is a key housing justice.





## **FEDERAL POLICY**

### **IMMEDIATE REQUESTS**

Ensure the highest level of funding for housing in the FY24 spending bill.

### **IMMEDIATE THREATS**

Push back against anti-homelessness rhetoric and legislation at the federal, state, & local level.

### **LONG TERM SOLUTIONS**

#### **Unhoused Bill of Rights**

The legislation calls on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to declare the unhoused crisis a public health emergency and calls for rigorous federal investments into homeless assistance programs, affordable housing initiatives, and wraparound services that keep people permanently housed.

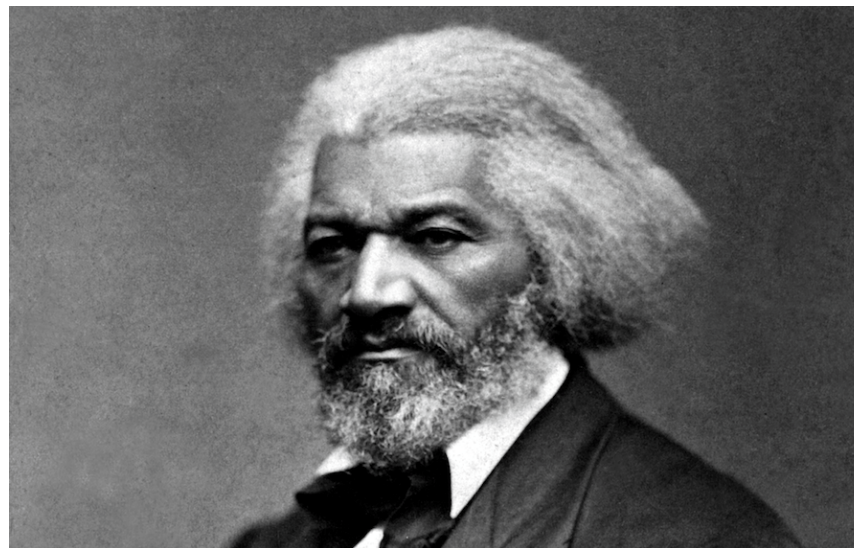
#### **Ending Homelessness Act (H.R.4496)**

Establishes a universal voucher program to ensure every eligible household can receive rental assistance. Provides \$10.5 billion to build homes affordable to people with the greatest needs  
Bans source of income discrimination and provides funding for fair housing enforcement.





## Faith in Action



The great orator, Frederick Douglass, told us this:  
**“Power concedes nothing without a demand.”**

We must demand all our systems and organizations do what is needed to guarantee everyone, without exception, a safe, decent, accessible, and affordable home.