

## Suggestions of Social Media Posting:

Please feel free to use the images independent of the language below them. We suggest including the source for the information as part of the post, or in the comments. We encourage you to use #TalkAboutHousing or We Have To Talk About Housing in your posts .



**Nationally, 40% of youth and young adults in homelessness identify as LGBTQ+**

**In Greater Lowell, one in FIVE of the youth and young adults in homelessness identified as LGBTQ+**

**We Have to Talk About Housing**

Youth and young adults who identify at LGBTQ+ are at risk of homelessness at rates much higher than their peers, and often find themselves being made to leave their homes because of who they are. No one should be homeless because of who they are, or who they love. Affordable housing means that LGBTQ+ youth have access to a safe place to call home.

Stats: Voices of Youth Count, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago



According to the Community Teamwork Youth Opportunity Center, many of the youth they see in their program are leaving homes that are unsafe, or even dangerous. Creating affordable housing means creating safe spaces for youth and young adults to grow and thrive.



Source: Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University

The number of seniors experiencing homelessness is growing. As housing costs skyrocket, those on fixed incomes suffer the most. If we care about our seniors, we have to talk about housing. Only 1 in 3 seniors who qualify for subsidized housing is able to access it - we have to make affordable housing available to our most vulnerable residents.

# ONE IN FIVE VETERANS IN HOMELESSNESS



## IS OVER THE AGE OF 62.

Source: Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University

We have made progress on housing veterans, but even one homeless vet is too many. Many vets in homelessness may even have a voucher for housing - but a lack of affordable units means they still can't get housed. If we want to support our troops, we have to talk about housing,

An individual in chronic homelessness costs taxpayers around \$40,000 a year - and often much more.

Permanent supportive housing costs about \$15,000 a year.

Leaving people homeless costs us **MORE.**

**We have to talk about housing**



Housing is expensive - but not as expensive as homelessness. Communities are already spending money on individuals in homelessness - for shelters, emergency medical care, outreach, clean up, and more. If we're going to talk about homelessness, we have to talk about housing. Housing ends homelessness while reducing overall costs - Saving money, and lives.

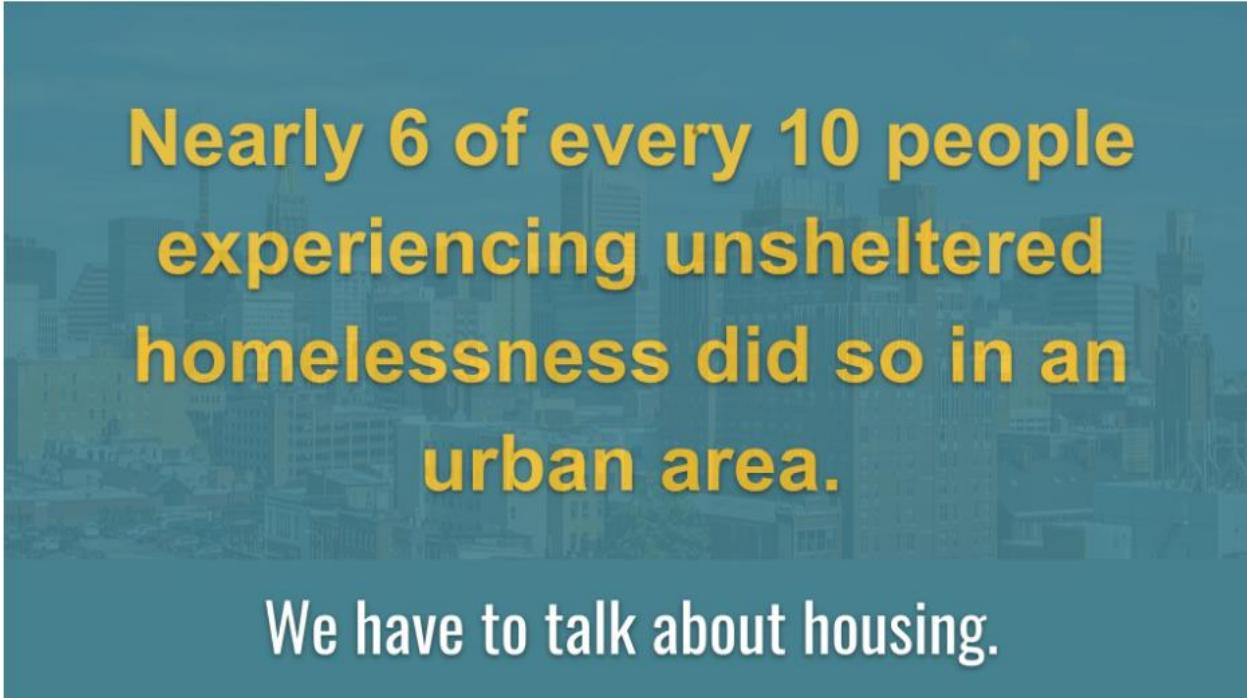
(Stats from National Alliance to End Homelessness)

Housing is healthcare.  
On average, people without homes die  
**30 years sooner**  
than people with housing.

**We have to talk about housing.**

Chronic illnesses like asthma, diabetes and hypertension become more serious when someone is unhoused. Individuals in homelessness die decades sooner than their housed neighbors, often because of an inability to meet basic needs like healthy meals or a good night's sleep. Housing makes the difference - we have to talk about housing.

(Stat: National Health Care for the Homeless Council)



**Nearly 6 of every 10 people  
experiencing unsheltered  
homelessness did so in an  
urban area.**

**We have to talk about housing.**

Urban areas have the highest cost of living, and as housing costs rise, so does homelessness. Affordable housing not only allows us to house individuals in homelessness, it makes it easier for low income individuals to remain housed. Affordable housing benefits our entire community.

Information from the 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR)

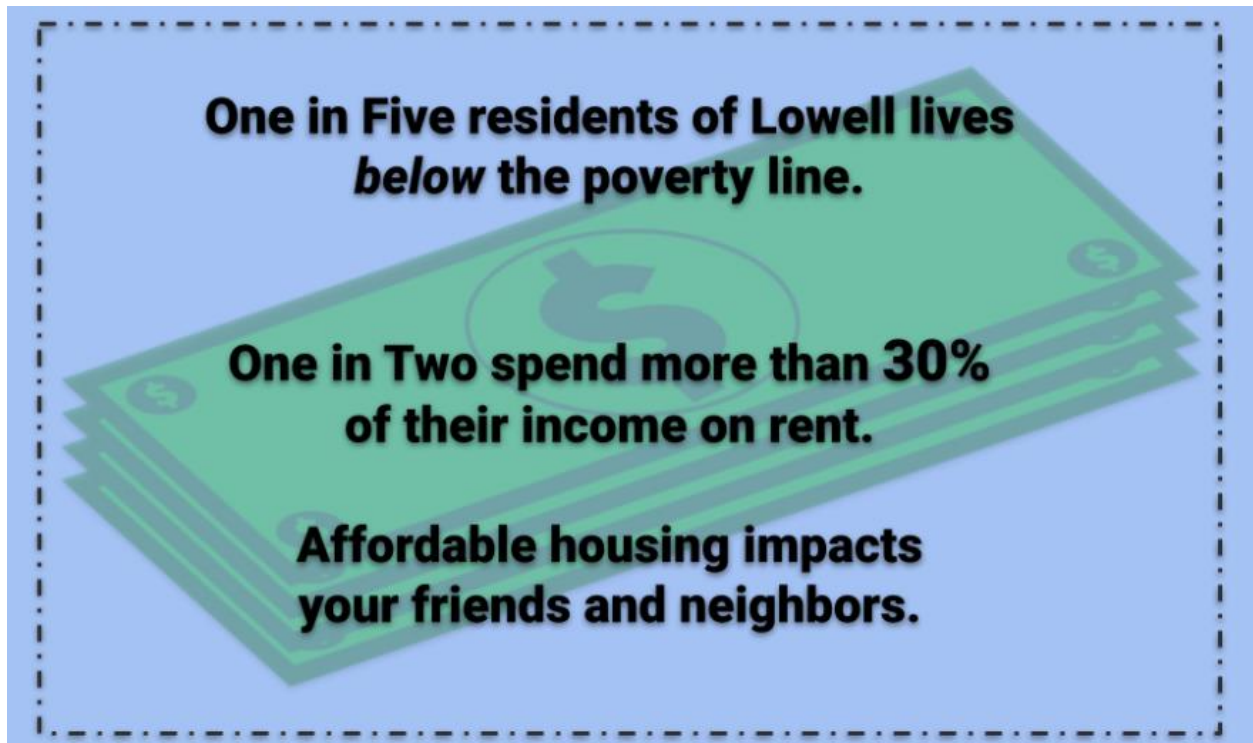
If we're going to talk about  
homelessness...

**We have to talk about  
housing.**



No conversation about homelessness should happen without talking about housing. Nearly any issue related to homelessness, from encampments to loitering to panhandling, can be resolved with housing. If your concern is related to homelessness, the answer has to be housing.





Being rent burdened is the reality for many in our communities. Paying more than 30% of your income to rent can create an unsustainable situation for many of our neighbors, especially those on a fixed income like seniors and students. The overall sustainability of our neighborhoods depends on affordable housing.

Source: CTI Community Needs Assessment 2021

## Are you 500 dollars from homelessness?

When surveyed, 6 out of 10 Lowellians indicated they have **less than \$500** saved for an emergency.

- One unexpected car repair
- One expensive medication not covered by insurance
- One unexpectedly high fuel bill

Are you one emergency away from homelessness?

**We Have to Talk About Housing**

Imagine being one major emergency away from homelessness. For many in our community, that threat feels all too real. When people are paying more than they can afford for rent, they can't save. When you can't save, you can't prepare for an emergency. Affordable housing means people can save, and be better prepared for the unexpected.

Source: CTI 2021 Community Needs Assessment