

We have to talk about housing.

Are you \$500 from homelessness?

We have to talk about housing, because affordable housing is how we prevent homelessness.

In 2021, around half of those surveyed for the Community Needs Assessment didn't have \$500 dollars for an emergency. A new set of tires; a trip to the emergency room, or an unexpectedly high heating bill can start a chain reaction that leads to crisis.

The majority of people in homelessness are there because of the high cost of housing.

More than any other factor, homelessness is a result of housing costs. More than half the renters in Greater Lowell are rent burdened, paying more than 30% of their income for housing - and making the risk of falling into homelessness very real.

Many of your neighbors are one major emergency away from being at risk of homelessness.

In the coming months, we will be talking about housing and homelessness - what we know, what needs to happen, and how you can help.

We can't end or prevent homelessness without increasing the supply of housing. If we want to prevent homelessness,

We have to talk about housing.

Contact us at <u>talkabouthousing@commteam.org</u> to find out how you can help

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