

## 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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