

Quote from Video

“According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), housing is affordable if it costs the occupant no more than 30% of their gross income for overall housing, including utilities.”

— Introduction —

The Great Depression signaled a new era in America and called upon the United States Congress to pass legislation and enact programs that would create a way for all Americans to have access to safe, decent, affordable housing. The first housing bill in the U.S. was the National Housing Act of 1934, which created the Federal Housing Administration. Subsequently, the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (a.k.a. The Wagner-Steagall Act) was passed establishing the U.S. Housing Authority which was empowered to make construction loans to specially created local housing authorities and to provide subsidies to keep the rent affordable for low-income families. Today, all government housing programs are administered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and local housing authorities such as the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA). According to the 2010 American Community Survey, 19.4 million Americans struggle with affordable housing issues. Although people recognize the growing need for affordable housing, the issue remains controversial, and the support for local initiatives have become passive, resulting in the creation of only a handful of new affordable housing units in recent years. The debate has become muddled with false images of who really needs affordable housing and myths about how affordable housing impacts our neighborhoods and communities.

The Affordable Housing Advocates of Greater Cincinnati presents a public education and awareness video that puts a face to affordable housing. This video defines what affordable housing is, who needs it and the various types of affordable housing that exist. The video and discussion guide are informative tools to be used to facilitate community discussions around this important issue.

Ideal for use by:

- Classroom teachers
- Housing advisors / urban planners
- Youth and community agencies
- Public housing departments
- Church groups
- Community Councils

Run Time: 13 minutes

Suggestions for the Facilitator prior to viewing video:

If in a classroom setting, have students collect newspaper or online articles about affordable housing. This will make them aware of affordable housing issues.

Hold a class discussion in which students share the articles that they have gathered. Outline on the board the focus of each article to help them see the scope of the affordable housing discussion.

Ask the students to select one article and write a paragraph regarding their perspective about how affordable housing impacts the community at large.

✂ — Discussion Guide Questions — ✂

Before watching the video each person participating in the group discussion should share their responses to the following questions:

1. What is affordable housing?
2. Why does affordable housing exist?
3. Do you believe that affordable housing destroys our neighborhoods?
4. Why do you believe affordable housing has become a controversial issue?

Discuss the following questions after watching the video:

1. What are some of your observations about the affordable housing residents that were interviewed in the video? Did those observations agree or disagree with your perceptions of who benefits from affordable housing?
2. Did the video reveal something that you did not previously know about affordable housing? If so, what was it?
3. What are the biggest misconceptions and rumors about affordable housing? What misconceptions and myths were cleared for you from watching this video?
4. Why is it important to debunk affordable housing myths?
5. Does the video help foster an understanding of attitudes in the community about locations for affordable housing?
6. What are the affordable housing issues relevant to you? Why should we care? Why does where we live matter?
7. How does affordable housing affect the community?
8. What affected you the most about this video?
9. Why is there confusion about the term affordable housing? Should there be another term instead of affordable housing?
10. The video quotes market rate rent for a 2-bedroom apartment as \$753 per month. Is this true in your experience?
11. What role do neighborhoods play in helping landlords and tenants with affordable housing?
12. Should all housing be accessible to people with disabilities?
13. How is affordable housing discussed in the media? How do the media stories affect your attitude about affordable housing?
14. Have a debate on the pros and cons of affordable housing in Hamilton County, Ohio.
15. Do you think our government should play a role in ensuring affordable housing is available?
16. Do you think affordable housing policies are working in your area?
17. If you could add a section to this video that you think it is missing, what would it cover?