



**FACE THE  
HOUSING CRISIS™**



## **Cornerstone Housing™**

Workgroup Sessions—Selection Guide

# MOMENTUM FORWARD

Your participation in the Cornerstone Housing™ workstreams puts our community at the forefront of an innovative approach to tackle the housing crisis. By integrating the principles of systems thinking, our work now turns to more focused work with each of three workgroups pursuing different subsystems linked to a shared goal: creating sustainable and accessible housing for all. Your expertise, experience, and passion are crucial in this endeavor.

Recall that three areas of focus have been identified in the Cornerstone Housing™ logic model for our systems change work. The first group is organized by its focus on *policy innovation to restore the Housing Supply Ladder* with the goal of restoring balance in the housing market with adequate supply across the tiers of housing, facilitating progression from entry-level to aging in place.

The second group will engage in *needs assessment and development to strengthen Capable Demand*, taking as its goal the expanding future homeowners' or renters capacity to secure and maintain decent housing that fits their needs. The third group is comprised of professionals and citizens focused on *transformation of a social service model—a Reflexive Safety Net*—that provides rapid and coordinated response to crisis or otherwise breaks the cycle of dependency that undermines capable demand.



# EMPOWER CHANGE

## *Through Your Expertise and Passion*

As we face the housing crisis, your unique skills and experiences are invaluable in driving sustainable solutions. To maximize the impact of your contributions and enhance your professional and community involvement, carefully consider which group aligns best with your expertise and interests.

By choosing the group that best matches your skills and aspirations, you're taking a significant step in addressing the housing crisis while enriching your own professional journey. Each group offers a unique platform for collaboration, learning, and making a lasting impact in our community.

### Guidelines for Selecting Your Ideal Workgroup:

- 1. Reflect on Your Skills and Experience:** Think about your professional background, volunteer experiences, and areas of expertise. Which aspects of the housing crisis are you most passionate about?
- 2. Consider Your Professional Growth:** Which group offers you the opportunity to not only contribute significantly but also to gain new insights and skills that can be applied in your current or future roles?
- 3. Assess the Impact:** Evaluate which group's goals align closely with the changes you want to see in the community. Where can your participation make the most tangible difference?
- 4. Read Each Description Carefully:** As you go through the descriptions of each workgroup, envision where your contributions could be most effective and how being part of this group aligns with your professional and personal goals.

1

## Housing Supply Ladder Workgroup

**Focus:** Restoring balance in the housing market by ensuring an adequate supply across all housing tiers.

**Ideal for You If:** You have experience in real estate development, urban planning, construction, housing finance, or related fields.

If you've been involved in housing policy, affordable housing projects, or have worked with housing authorities (or serve the community as one), your insights will prove invaluable in addressing supply issues at every level, from entry-level homes to senior living options.

**Add Value By:** Contributing your knowledge in sustainable building practices, policy development, or community planning. Your experience can help guide decisions that ensure a varied and balanced housing market, facilitating a natural progression for residents at different stages of their lives.

2

## Capable Demand Workgroup

**Focus:** Enabling sustainable demand by helping buyers develop the financial capacity to secure and maintain appropriate housing.

**Ideal for You If:** Your background is in finance, banking, economic development, or social work with a focus on financial empowerment. Experience in mortgage lending, financial counseling, or economic policy-making can help potential homeowners gain the financial literacy and stability needed for homeownership.

**Add Value By:** Leveraging your financial expertise to develop programs that empower individuals with the knowledge and tools to make sound housing decisions. Your skills can help break down barriers to homeownership and support sustainable, long-term demand in the housing market.

3

## Reflexive Safety Net Workgroup

**Focus:** Developing a model for rapid and coordinated social service response, breaking the cycle of dependency that affects housing stability.

**Ideal for You If:** You have a background in social services, mental health, community organizing, or emergency response. Experience in NGOs, government assistance programs, or as a social worker or counselor will be particularly beneficial in creating solutions for those in crisis or transitioning from dependency to independence.

**Add Value By:** Applying your expertise in case management, crisis intervention, or community outreach to build an integrated network of support. Your experience in direct service or policy development can help shape a model that not only responds to crises but also fosters long-term self-sufficiency in housing.



# RSVP—NEXT SESSIONS



## Workgroup 1: Housing Supply Ladder

Wednesday, February 21

8:15 am – 10 am

## Workgroups 2 & 3: Capable Demand + Safety Net

Wednesday, February 21

10:45 am – 12:30 pm



**E-mail your workgroup selection to:**

Hannah DeFrank

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**Bring a friend!**

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