

Affordable Housing Subcommittee Recommendations

Our recommendations address the relationship of housing and poverty. Access to safe, decent affordable housing plays an important role in breaking the cycle of generational poverty. A common and shared vision of what we would like our community to be and embrace has arisen out of our work. Our Recommendations describe this vision, and provide strategies for achieving it.

Recommendation #5

Our county government, the other PPA partners, and the general public should take active steps to support the creation and retention of affordable housing.

Strategies:

- Local nonprofit housing providers and ACC should work together to develop and implement a comprehensive housing strategy as described in Recommendation #3.
- ACC should use SPLOST to fund a building to locate all the housing service providers in Athens-Clarke County. The building should be centrally located, provide affordable rent for nonprofits, and be seen as the place for the community to go when they need help.
- The PPA Conveners should establish a "Prosperity Corps" which could be based in the housing service providers' building. The Prosperity Corps would organize volunteers and follow up on these strategies. They would advocate for the PPA's vision and recommendations.
- ACC should implement the strategies described in Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 to increase the supply and retention of affordable housing.
- Large employers should help increase homeownership by providing down payment assistance for their employees.
- Clarke County schools should provide financial literacy education as part of the curriculum beginning in elementary school.
- Members of the community at large should hold the PPA conveners accountable for following through on these recommendations. People must show up at commission meetings, talk to their commissioners, keep these recommendations in the public eye and not let them be forgotten.