



Membership Information

Name: _____
 Title: _____
 Organization: _____

 Address: _____

 City, State, and Zip Code: _____

 Office Phone: _____
 Mobile Phone: _____
 Fax Number: _____
 Email Address: _____

Check one of the following (dollar amount noted is *minimum* acceptable membership fee):

- Constituent (\$1 min.)
- Individual (\$20 min.)
- Community Organization (\$100 min.)
- Government (\$150 for 0-50,000 residents, \$450 for 50,000-200,000 residents, \$500 for 200,000+ residents)
- Investor (non corporate) (\$500 min.)
- Corporation (\$750 min.)
- Sponsor (\$1,000 min.)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Complete this form and return it with your payment to LIHCA c/o Collaborative Solutions, Inc., P.O. Box 130159, Birmingham, AL 35213-0159. Phone number: (205) 939-0411 x205. Fax number: (205) 939-4048. Please fill out one membership form per member (if joining as both an Individual **and** as a Community Organization, please fill out two forms). Check or money orders are accepted. Please make checks payable to the Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama.

*LIHCA membership is tax-deductible.

*Please note that your contact information may be shared with other LIHCA members. If you do not want your information shared, please check this box .



c/o Collaborative Solutions, Inc.

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 Russell L. Bennett, Executive Director
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"The contents of this product were developed under a grant from the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities (ACDD). However, these contents do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Council."



**AFFORDABLE HOUSING
 FOR ALABAMIANS WITH
 THE GREATEST FINANCIAL
 NEED**

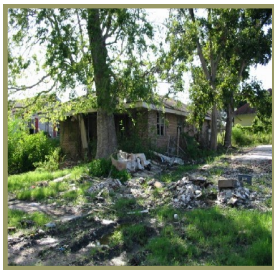


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LIHCA

The affordable housing crisis in Alabama has reached staggering proportions. Based on data from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, Alabama has an estimated shortage of 44,673 affordable and available housing units. This means many of our neighbors, coworkers,



Safe and Affordable Housing is a Must for all Alabamians!

friends, and family members are unable to find safe and affordable housing for their families. Compounding this problem is the fact that there has been no clear policy or statewide coalition designated to address this matter...until now.

The Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama (LIHCA) was established in 2007 to address the housing crisis and increase housing opportunities for Alabamians with the greatest financial need.

Initial meetings to address the housing crisis began in April 2006 at the leadership of Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI) and United Cerebral Palsy of Birmingham. A series of statewide meetings have taken place with unique participants from the following groups: HUD, banking institutions, elected officials, nonprofit service providers, low-income persons, developers, fair housing experts, legal services groups, housing counselors, real estate experts, and advocates interested in low-income housing. This broad participation continues to fuel the enthusiasm of subsequent meetings and workshops.

LIHCA is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors to implement its mission to “*increase housing opportunities for Alabamians with the greatest financial need.*” LIHCA’s Board consists of experienced low-income housing developers, consultants, and advocates with extensive housing experience and several hundred units developed and operating at present. Affordable housing has long been a need within the state and LIHCA recognizes the need to address this problem.

Recently, LIHCA members have participated in both the Legislative Task Force on Poverty and the Interim Housing Trust Fund Task Force in Montgomery. As a result, House Bill 726 (HB726) was introduced in the 2009 legislative session. HB726 would establish an affordable housing trust fund for the state of Alabama. LIHCA is committed to addressing the housing needs of all low-income Alabamians through education and advocacy.

LIHCA’s goals include advocating for an affordable housing trust fund, creating a stable membership base, increasing linkages to provide supportive housing, and establishing statewide housing policy.

LIHCA needs your help! Please become a member and support the advocacy of affordable housing in our state!

For more information on LIHCA membership, how to join LIHCA’s mailing list, or our quarterly meetings, please contact:

Ashley Kerr at Collaborative Solutions, Inc.,
(205) 939-0411x205 or by email at
ashley@collaborative-solutions.net.

LIHCA’s mission is to increase housing opportunities for Alabamians with the greatest financial need.

Staggering Statistic

The Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a 2-bedroom apartment in Alabama is \$627. Without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$2,088 per month or \$25,060 per year to afford an apartment.

Minimum wage in Alabama is \$6.55 per hour. An individual earning minimum wage will make \$13,624 per year. To find an affordable apartment, this individual can spend no more than \$341 per month on rent.

If an individual’s sole income is SSI, the benefit is \$674 per month. A 1-bedroom apartment at FMR is \$539, leaving only \$135 for monthly expenses!

Note: A housing unit is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30% of the renter’s annual income.

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition (www.nlihc.org).

Interested in joining LIHCA? Fill out the membership form on the back of this brochure.