



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 (\$10 min.)
- Community Organization (\$100 min.)
- Government (\$150 for 50,000 or fewer city residents, \$400 for 50,000 or more city residents)
- Investor (non corporate) (\$500 min.)
- Corporation (\$750 min.)
- Sponsor (\$1000 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.
 *Not tax deductible at this time.




c/o Collaborative Solutions, Inc.

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



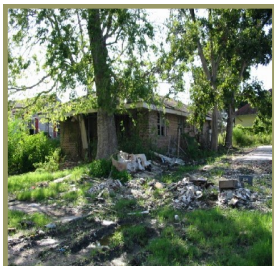
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LIHCA

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 is no clear policy or statewide coalition designated to address this matter...until now. A number of local and statewide advocates have

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

LIHCA has recently established a 26-member Steering Committee to implement its mission to "increase housing opportunities for Alabamians with the greatest financial need." This body began meeting in April 2006 at the leadership of Collaborative Solutions, Inc. (CSI) and United Cerebral Palsy of Birmingham. A series of four statewide meetings have taken place with more than 70 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 continued to fuel the enthusiasm of subsequent meetings and workshops. An affordable housing workshop was held in September of 2006 and a visit from the National Low Income Housing Coalition occurred in February 2007 as participants of the group continued to shape LIHCA's formation. At present, LIHCA is formally organized with a mission statement and plans to incorporate as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity within the next year. LIHCA's Steering Committee consists of experienced low-income housing developers with several hundred units developed and operating at present. These leaders have passed funding issues through the Alabama Legislature for several types of funding areas including HIV/AIDS, mental health, physical disabilities, elderly, and economic development.

LIHCA's goals for Year One include solidifying nonprofit status for the group; advocating for a low-income housing trust fund; and creating a stable membership base.

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

For more information on LIHCA membership 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 \$595. Without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$1,982 per month or \$23,789 per year to afford an apartment.

Minimum wage in Alabama is \$5.85 per hour. If an individual earns minimum wage, s/he must work 78 hours per week, 52 weeks per year to afford the 2-bedroom apartment at FMR.

If an individual's sole income is SSI, the benefit is \$637 per month. To afford a 2-bedroom apartment at FMR, one must pay 93% of that amount on rent!

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 found on the back of this brochure.