Struggling To Stay Housed

Exploring how Los Angeles renters navigate housing insecurity and opportunities to help

Developed by the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office of City Homelessness Initiatives
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We’re learning directly from Angelenos.

Humanizing the Housing Crisis

Access to stable housing is fundamental to our ability to thrive, yet hundreds of thousands of Angelenos live without secure housing – struggling to afford their home, doubling up, moving frequently, or living in fear of eviction and homelessness.

This resource centers the lived experiences of renters in the City of Los Angeles who are trying to stay housed, particularly people of color and immigrants. Their journeys make personal the impact of California’s affordable housing crisis and underscore the need for bold, community-centered interventions.

By sharing insights from interviews with Los Angeles renters, this resource aims to spark dialogue and action among policy makers and service providers, especially with the challenges and opportunities brought on by the COVID-19 health crisis.
We want to give a special thanks to all our lived experience experts who shared their journeys as renters. This also includes Maria, Adriana, Esmeralda, Britney, Sharon, Sue, and Albert. Their experiences are the basis of this resource, and it would not have been possible without them.

Note: Some names have been changed to protect the privacy of lived experience experts. Illustrations do not represent actual likeness.
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Unpacking Housing Insecurity

PART I
What do we mean by housing insecurity?

In this resource, a “housing insecure” Angeleno is facing one or more housing-related challenges that threaten their ability to live safely and with dignity in their home.

For some, housing insecurity is a short-term circumstance brought on by an unexpected job loss or illness. But for many households – especially those with low-income Angelenos – housing insecurity remains a chronic condition that negatively impacts their health, financial future, and community.

Due to historic and present-day inequities, housing insecurity is inextricably linked to issues of racial, gender, and economic justice. Many of the examples of housing insecurity on the next page disproportionately impact communities of color, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and households with children.¹
Housing insecurity can take many different forms and affects every household differently. This spectrum begins to illustrate the visible and invisible impacts that housing insecurity can have on Angelenos. Research makes clear that not all housing insecure households will experience homelessness, but the fear of losing a home and sleeping on the street can be a major source of stress.
“Being [housing] secure is being able to leave work, go home, and see your kids. You eat together without thinking, ‘the first of the month is coming.’

Insecurity is like fear. Everyday you live in fear. Right now, that's my major emotion. Fear.”

— SORAYA, Los Angeles renter and mother of six
Housing insecurity is not only caused by economic shocks and stresses, but is also a root cause of poverty. When housing is unaffordable, many people prioritize rent over other key areas such as food, security, and health.

Nearly two-thirds of rent-burdened households reported paying rent over food in the last two years.⁴

Angelenos economically impacted by COVID-19 have delayed bill payments (59%), taken out debt (50%), cut back on utilities (38%), and even gone without medicine or seeing a doctor (28%).⁶

Unaffordable and unstable housing leads residents to predatory financial products, inhibits saving for wealth-building opportunities like education or homeownership, and – in the case of an eviction – has negative ramifications on a household’s credit score and ability to rent quality housing in the future.
WHY DOES HOUSING INSECURITY MATTER?

Household Health

UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS

Housing insecurity means having less access to a healthy home and neighborhood.

Housing instability, displacement, and lack of affordability leads housing insecure residents to settle on lower quality or informal units that may pose health risks like mold and pests.⁷

These same factors also lead residents to live in areas with higher rates of pollutants and negative health outcomes like asthma, as well as less access to healthy foods and quality healthcare.⁶

During the COVID-19 pandemic, housing instability and overcrowding at home was also linked with increased exposure to the virus.⁵

CHRONIC STRESS

Angelenos we interviewed shared that housing insecurity is a major stressor in their lives.

For many residents, chronic stress related to housing dominates their lives. Heightened levels of stress can lead to acute physical and mental health challenges — including cardiac and respiratory disease, anxiety, and depression. These challenges can negatively impact performance at work or school, and relationships with family and friends.¹⁰

INTERGENERATIONAL IMPACT

Housing insecurity can negatively impact household wellbeing across generations.

Children growing up with housing insecurity have more child lifetime hospitalizations, poorer health outcomes, and lower rates of high school and college graduation.⁸,¹²
Experiences of Angelenos

PART II
Who did we engage?

We centered populations that disproportionately experience housing challenges and worked with community-based organizations to identify Angelenos interested in sharing.

Our Process

Over several months, the Mayor’s Office of City Homeless Initiatives conducted more than 20 interviews to understand the journeys of Angelenos facing housing insecurity.

Our lived experience experts are low-income renters of color and immigrants, mostly women, with both transitional aged youth and seniors represented.

This resource highlights a range of experiences that were shared in our interviews. It is not intended to be a comprehensive or exhaustive survey, rather a conversation starter.

In the following pages, we focus on the journeys of three renters: Soraya, Aki, and Tahanna. We will also reference quotes and insights from additional interviews throughout this resource. Only first names are used to ensure privacy and some names have been changed.
Soraya

42 y/o Woman • Latina • Single mother of six • East Los Angeles to Reseda

Soraya is a caring and attentive mother,

“I have raised my kids to love each other so much that there are no problems between them. So, that comforts me to know that they are fine, that they’re going to take care of each other... They all have their own different personalities. All my kids are really good kids, thank God.”

but her current housing situation is challenging for her whole family.

“Everything is unbalanced. How do you work? How do the kids go to school? You have that instability. You have to take it one day at a time, because [otherwise] you go crazy, or your health is going to deteriorate to a point where you’re going to die.”
Soraya’s Journey

1. A stable family rhythm
Soraya has a good rhythm with her six kids in school. Her job is stable and she has money to pay rent each month.
Soraya’s home feels organized, neat, and clean. After work, she relaxes by watching a movie with her kids. She is comfortable.

2. Less hours at work lead to an eviction
Soraya’s job of 13 years unexpectedly moves her to part-time. She falls behind on rent for the first time in her five years of living in this home.

She immediately receives a 3-day notice from her landlord, but is unable to strike a deal to avoid eviction.

“I was short on cash, I didn’t really know where to find different apartments. And the landlady was like, ‘You have to leave, you have to leave.’ I didn’t know where to go.”

3. Stressed, waiting for a court decision
Soraya is scrambling to find resources.

Through a friend, she finds a lawyer. He’s expensive, but promises the eviction will not be on her record.

The landlord does not show up at court, so they have to reschedule the court appearance. Soraya continues to live with an uncertain future.

Finally, she receives a judgement: the eviction will not be on her record, but she has to pay back rent and move out. The cost of her owed rent, storage unit, and lawyer is overwhelming.

4. In limbo with limited options
Soraya is searching for a new affordable home, but to no avail.

She feels like all the doors are being shut in her face – from denied apartment applications to government resources reserved for residents who are already unhoused. There is no clear path to getting her family a new place to live.

Exasperated, she decides to move with her six children into her cousin’s place.

Her cousin has two kids of her own and her husband recently passed away. Soraya can help with the rent.

5. Compounding challenges
The COVID-19 pandemic hits and now eight children are in one small apartment trying to do distance learning. Soraya’s oldest son, who is usually well-behaved, starts picking fights with the other kids.

Soraya’s cousin is laid off and they are now facing another eviction scenario with an aggressive landlord.

Meanwhile, Soraya is commuting by bus back to her old neighborhood where her job is located. She does not have a car.

“Check by check, everything mostly goes to rent. [Housing] is not a luxury, it’s not a car, it’s a necessity – like, you don’t have a roof.”

6. Holding out hope and getting help
Soraya’s story is unresolved. Housing court will not move forward with her cousin’s eviction case due to COVID-19. She is still living there and contributing rent.

Recently, while looking for bus passes for her kids, Soraya found out about one of the City’s FamilySource Centers, New Economics for Women (NEW).

She is now looking for her own apartment with NEW’s help, but it’s difficult to find an affordable option that will accommodate her whole family. She hopes to return to full-time work soon to have more money for rent.

“Big enough’, and ‘I can afford’ won’t go in the same sentence.”

The good news is that she feels “100% supported” by her case worker at NEW. She just wishes she knew about them earlier.

◆ all diamonds represent an opportunity for intervention on the next page
Imagine if Soraya...

♦ received temporary financial assistance when her job hours were reduced?

♦ connected with free legal services and case management when she first received an eviction notice?

♦♦♦ had access to free mental health support for herself and her children to help navigate their housing challenges?
Aki

Aki is organizing with her neighbors and a community group to fight tenant harassment,

“They helped me. They picked me up. Right now, inside my heart, they are my family. They’ve been there for me from my worst [moment] to happiness. I thought, ‘Oh wow, I’m not alone here.’”

but the uncertainty of her housing situation is a major source of stress

“I can’t breathe. I just work for rent — no money to buy food or anything else. And I asked myself, why? We’ve just worked so hard every single day. I pay my bills, I pay my rent. And then suddenly, we have no place to turn.”
Aki’s Journey

1. A longtime home in Chinatown

Aki has lived in her own Chinatown apartment for 15 years. She came to America as a refugee and now works long hours at a casino. She is grateful for what she has, and works hard every day to make it work.

2. Her landlord sells the building

In 2019, Aki’s landlord plans to sell her six-unit building and gives Aki 60 days’ notice to move out. Aki is shocked and scared.

A neighbor connects her with Chinatown Community for Equitable Development (CCED), which helps support and organize the tenants in Aki’s building.

All six households in her building work together with CCED to take this issue to housing court.

The court tells them to wait and see what happens after 60 days.

“I was shocked, my whole heart just sank to the bottom of my foot. They give me only 60 days to move, and I don’t know where to go. I don’t know where to turn... [I feel] left out in the middle of the ocean where I cannot see anything.”

3. Nowhere to go

The new owner takes over a few months later. They give Aki another 60 day notice. All six households refuse to leave.

Tenants of the building try to continue to pay rent, but their checks are returned. Aki and her neighbors organize a visit to the landlord’s home in Brentwood to try to pay rent.

Aki cannot find another home to rent – prices are more expensive than her entire month’s earnings. She feels “suffocated.”

“Chinatown [used to be] very peaceful and quiet. Now, they build a lot of apartments. They chase all the old people [out]. They cannot drive. They cannot go anywhere... and the rent is so expensive. Can you afford it? I cannot.”

4. Harassment continues

Aki’s building is sold again. The tenants receive a new notice to leave, but the tenants decide to continue their fight to stay.

The new landlord also refuses to accept their rent payments and retaliates by harassing the tenants, including painting graffiti on the building.

Aki calls the cops to ensure she does not get blamed for the graffiti.

5. Living in fear

Aki is scared about future harassment from her landlord. Now, she jumps whenever she hears noise outside.

The landlord is now asking for seven months’ back rent to be repaid in cashier’s checks and mailed using certified mail, costing her an extra $5 every month. However, the checks get returned.

“They return [the rent] back to us. Then we buy the cashier’s check, money order. That’s what they wanted. And they sent that back to us. What are they trying to do? I don’t know. I’m so scared.”

6. Waiting and uncertain

Courts are closed due to COVID-19. Aki and her neighbors do not know whether they will be protected when courts reopen, or whether they can afford to remain in Chinatown if they are forced to leave.
IMAGINE IF AKI...

♦ was fully informed about her rights and options as a tenant when her building was sold?

♦♦ could find affordable housing in the community she has lived in for 15+ years?

♦♦♦ had a way to report harassment and hold her landlord accountable?
Tahanna

22 y/o Woman • Black • Convenience Store Clerk, Student • South Los Angeles

Tahanna is motivated and independent,

“\textbf{I know who I want to be in life. So, I do my research... how am I going to get there? Nobody’s going to do it for you... nobody’s gonna give you a handout... especially at my age. I’m 22. I’m grown now... You have to get up and do it for yourself every day.”}

but housing insecurity makes it difficult to focus at work and school:

“\textbf{Homelessness really does have an impact on your life. Every day you wake up thinking, ‘How’m gonna eat today? How am I gonna get some money today? How am I gonna survive today?’ It’s hard to focus. You are just thinking about surviving. It’s hard to get things done.”}
Tahanna’s Journey

Unsafe at home
Tahanna is 22-years-old and living with her family, but there are too many people at home. Her family starts hosting people she does not feel comfortable living with. Tahanna is also managing some mental health challenges, which make the stressful situation at home even harder.

She begins sleeping in the garage.

Living in her car
Tahanna gets a car and starts sleeping there. It becomes her home for four months.

For Tahanna, it feels like there are no other housing options. She has never needed to search for an apartment before. She feels unprepared. There are so many barriers for someone her age to get housing.

“It’s not easy to just up and get an apartment. You have to establish some type of credit, have a job to show proof [of income], make certain times the amount of rent... These are the things I did not know. I wish they would tell us in high school.”

Getting support
Tahanna’s 17-year-old cousin tells her about Brotherhood Crusade, a local community-based organization, and recommends that she reach out to them for support.

Brotherhood Crusade is able to support Tahanna in finding a job, as well as supporting her journey to find temporary and permanent housing.

Tahannah is also attending adult school and studying to become a medical assistant.

Working while homeless
Tahanna struggles to succeed at her job while she stays in her car. It is taking a toll on her mental health and she decides to leave.

“I didn’t have the proper mindset to go to work every day. I’m in customer service. You have to be happy daily, have a conversation with the customers. But every day when I would get to work, I’m sad. I’m depressed. I’m angry. I’m agitated. I don’t feel happy. I don’t feel like talking... I can’t perform how I need to perform at work because I feel this way.”

Feeling isolated from community
Tahanna does not like talking about being homeless or asking for help. She often hides her housing situation from her teachers and friends, and notices it impacts her relationships.

Without stable housing, it is challenging to complete schoolwork on time, but she is grateful for the school’s rollover semester program that allows her more leeway. She is dedicated to completing her program.

“I don’t like sympathy. I don’t want anyone to feel sorry for me. This is my situation, it’s my life, it’s my truth. I live this... There’s nothing anybody else could do or say to make me feel better. So, I just take it one day at a time. Some days are rougher than others... Some days I just think, ‘how did I even get here?’ But, I’m here. So what is the next step?”

One day at a time
Tahanna moves into a shelter, taking it one day at a time. Shelter life is challenging. Tahanna has asthma and finds it hard to follow COVID-19 protocols and wear a mask all the time.

But the shelter is allowing her to extend her stay and will continue to support her in finding permanent housing. Brotherhood Crusade has also connected Tahanna to mental health support.

For Tahanna, the biggest barrier to launching the next chapter of her life is the cost of housing.
IMAGINE IF TAHANNA...

- got instruction and support at school on how to find housing as a young adult?
- received a housing stipend as part of her higher education?
- did not feel stigma about her housing situation and was able to share more openly with her community and ask for help?
How do Angelenos define housing security?

Soraya, Aki, and Tahanna each faced different housing challenges – but they share a common vision of what it means to be housing secure and where they want their journeys to end.

Across our interviews, Angelenos articulated a common set of themes when defining housing security.

A safe, comfortable, and healthy home

An Angeleno is able to feel safe and at peace in their home. The unit is well-maintained and a comfortable size for their family. They do not have to live in fear of discrimination or harassment from their landlord. There are no recurring or unserviced maintenance issues.

“It is scary to live with the pressure of a landlord who does not like you or want you there.”

– Adriana, a mother of two in Van Nuys who recently had a change in ownership for her building and is facing harassment

An affordable home

An Angeleno is not living paycheck-to-paycheck, struggling to cover housing costs. Ideally, they spend no more than 30% of their income on rent, which leaves enough money to cover other expenses, be financially resilient, and save for opportunities like education and homeownership.

“The minimum wage is not enough to pay for housing here. It’s just not. You need at least two, three jobs to pay for housing. And that makes no sense to me. If we only make a certain amount of money, why do we have these high prices for rent? Nobody can pay that! Y’all pay a minimum wage, who can afford to live here?”

– Tahanna, a young adult in South L.A. living in a temporary shelter
Choice, control, and dignity

An Angeleno can choose what neighborhood to live in, and when and where to move – near their work, family, or good schools for their kids. They are in control of their housing experience and the stability can be a launching pad for self-determination.

“I’m in a great area. It is an environment that motivates me to keep going. I’m surrounded by great people. Now that my goal of stable housing is checked off, it’s on to the next goal.”

– Albert, a young adult who moved into a co-living space in Venice after experiencing homelessness; he stayed in shelters in Skid Row and South L.A., and wanted to be in a different neighborhood

Access to support and community

An Angeleno knows where to turn for help, both in their community and family, as well as with service providers and government. They are aware of their rights as a tenant and also have access to the resources they need to thrive, from legal counsel to financial planning.

“I did not know programs were available. I am a single mom, and I struggled so much when my kids were little. I had to live in a garage in poor conditions. Sometimes, I just felt like I did not want to continue.”

– Maria, a mother in Tarzana, is utilizing services for the first time after an eviction

Ability to thrive across generations

An Angeleno does not have to see housing as a psychological and economic stressor. Instead, they can focus on what is important for their future and their family – investing in education, building long-term financial stability, and ensuring their loved ones have a stronger safety net. Building sustainable housing security is a multi-generational process.

“Having secure housing means that I have my own sanctuary. I can be creative the way I want to... I can set my own plan... versus someone telling me when to do it, how to do it, what time I should be asleep or when to come eat... I want to make a home for me and my daughter. Then the next step in my life is going back to school.”

– Britney is currently staying in a Downtown L.A. shelter with her daughter, trying to move out
Takeaways & Key Insights
Housing insecurity is a web of compounding challenges and triggers

Many Angelenos we interviewed encountered a trigger – an unexpected expense or event – that propelled their journey toward increased housing insecurity. This event could be a reduction or loss of wages, changes in family structure, or an unexpected action taken by a landlord. Often, these housing shocks are interconnected with longstanding household challenges like childcare, immigration status, mental health, food insecurity, and poverty.

Due to this web, a household’s pathway to housing security is often bumpy and indirect. Many end up in one or more temporary solutions – shelters, doubling up, or living in a motel. Some finally find an affordable option, only to have their application denied because of family size or credit. Many shared that having limited control over their housing creates stress and hopelessness. For some, there is not a clear end in sight.

Losing a household breadwinner was destabilizing for both Esmeralda, whose husband left her, and also Adriana, whose husband was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

After an eviction, Maria had to move back in with her adult sons to help cover rent: “Sometimes, I do not buy food so that I can pay rent, but I still thank God we have a place to live. I want my kids to be able to move into their own place.”

Sharon had lived in her building for 30 years when she was notified suddenly that her rent was going to increase dramatically from $740 to $2,450. She is fighting to stay.

Soraya’s journey to housing security is taking longer because she has to balance caring for her kids and working the additional hours needed to afford a place of her own.

Before he found permanent housing, Albert experienced homelessness and would often sleep at the office where he interned.
Landlords play a major role in housing security

In almost all of our interviews, the actions of individual landlords played a significant role in Angelenos’ journeys towards housing security.

As one researcher we interviewed explained, renters have to deal with a landlord lottery – some win the jackpot with a friendly and attentive property owner, while others are at the mercy of bad actors or changing management.

Landlords often have the power to exacerbate a renter’s housing challenge or help ameliorate it.
Support is available, but not always easy to access

When it came to public and non-profit services, the Angelenos we interviewed struggled to access the right housing support at the right time.

Many were unaware of resources that existed or their rights as tenants in housing court and during the housing search process. Interviewees also shared challenges accessing critical public benefits due to complex applications requirements, over-subscribed programs, long wait times, and language and technology barriers.

Connecting with a knowledgeable organization, case manager, or advocate was often transformative for a household – leading to more efficient and comprehensive support. But some interviewees described inconsistent quality in the services and case management they received.

Britney felt that her case manager was not providing her with all the necessary information and options:

“I had to keep questioning, and it made me feel uncomfortable.”

It was only when she started working with the organization’s manager that she learned they would cover application fees for her housing search. But she had already paid $50 per application out of pocket.

She also described being made to “feel less than” in some of her interactions with service providers.

For Britney, one mistake in the application led to months of delays before a payment.

Facing an eviction, Maria worked with a FamilySource Center to connect to a pro-bono housing lawyer who was able to negotiate a three-month exit. Maria needed almost the full three months and close to $400 in application fee support to find a new place.

Soraya did not realize free legal services were available. She paid for a lawyer who she believed did not negotiate well for her.

Sharon applied for Section 8 and has been on the waitlist for 14 years.
Renters rely on their families and communities

When faced with housing insecurity, the Angelenos we spoke with often turned first to their friends, family, and neighbors for help. These resilient, informal networks provide emotional and financial support, as well as critical word-of-mouth connections to more formal services.

Because these networks are often place-based, some interviewees discussed their desire to remain in or near their local community, even as their housing situation changes. Others actively sought out a home in a new community that had different resources and connections they believed could help them reach their goals.

Often, these relationships act as an invisible and informal safety net, key to keeping residents housed.

Albert lives in a co-living space in Venice. While experiencing homelessness, Albert stayed in shelters in Skid Row and South L.A. He intentionally sought out a new neighborhood to feel safer. He believes the amenities and access to new people and opportunities can help him reach his career and educational goals.

After a recent rent increase, people in Sharon’s building chipped in to help her make rent.

Tahanna was introduced to Brotherhood Crusade through her cousin.

Other interviewees were connected to services through friends, their children’s schools, or even local canvassing efforts.

Soraya made the hard choice to move in with her cousin even though it was located far away from her former neighborhood, where her job and children’s schools are located. This has resulted in lengthy bus commutes and increased transportation costs. When she is able to afford it, Soraya hopes to move back.

"If we didn’t have CCED, we don’t know where [we would have gone]. I’m so happy I have a community in Chinatown...they support me, they stand by me...they’ve always been there for us.”
A renter’s identity greatly impacts their experience

Angelenos we interviewed spoke about how their race, age, gender, immigration status, family history, and other intersecting identities shape their experience of housing insecurity – from cultural norms, to discrimination in the rental market.

Due to longstanding racial, gender, and economic inequities in America, many interviewees came from families and communities that have been disproportionately impacted by housing injustice and challenges like eviction, foreclosure, disinvestment, displacement, and homelessness.

As one public servant explained, intergenerational wealth is the foundation for housing security. If you have wealthy parents and come from a wealthy community, you are statistically much less likely to become homeless. Interviewees’ individual experiences provide a small window into how these larger systemic inequalities play out.

Black and Latinx households are more likely to be supported by low-wage workers, whose earnings do not cover rent in a high-cost city.

As Maria explains, “Latinos cannot afford the rent, so we need to live in groups. That’s the only way to survive. It’s crazy! Then, landlords see people like us that are overcrowded and they start to evict.”

Maria feels like her community is being squeezed.

While we did not have the opportunity to interview renters who identified as LGBTQ+, a service provider called out the challenges that gender non-conforming individuals face when searching for housing or accessing shelter bathrooms and facilities, especially for certain religiously-affiliated providers.

Soraya, Maria, and Esmeralda are struggling to find affordable rental homes that can fit their large families. They are often quoted higher rents or turned down because of their children.

Since the onset of the pandemic, 44% of low-income households reported facing landlord harassment. These rates were higher for households with children.⁶

While Sharon is a senior. She is dependent on a home health aide who comes a few times a week. Her age and disability make her extremely anxious about her landlord’s rent increase and the risk of a potential eviction. She is physically unable to work a job for income or move out of her apartment.

Tahanna’s family home was overcrowded, and it pushed her into homelessness. As a Black woman, she is over-represented in the homeless services system.

Tahanna’s boyfriend is also dealing with homelessness. His mother struggles with substance abuse and is no longer supporting him.

As they enter into adulthood, Tahanna and her boyfriend are impacted by the challenges of earlier generations.
PART IV

Invitations & Opportunities
INVITATION

How can we reach households experiencing housing insecurity at the right moment with high-quality, holistic support?

OPPORTUNITY

• Expand and target outreach to Angelenos in need, including community-based and data-driven strategies to engage renters facing a trigger like a job loss, change of building ownership, or eviction filing.

• Continue to invest in hiring, training, and retaining culturally competent case managers who can provide sustained support to households, including through the City’s FamilySource Centers.
A renter’s friends and family often serve as their safety net. How can we honor and support these informal networks?

OPPORTUNITY

• Offer diverse, flexible rental assistance programs that support non-traditional family structures and housing situations, learning from the City’s Emergency Rental Assistance and Eviction Defense Programs.

• Explore models for providing fair compensation to friends and family offering emergency housing support, including learning from the public health model of paid family caregivers.
How can we educate, engage, and incentivize landlords as partners in promoting housing security?

EXPANSION

• Expand education, outreach, and enforcement efforts that promote renter rights and landlord responsibilities, building on the City’s Eviction Defense Program.

• Make eviction a last resort by increasing investment in prevention programs, alternatives to housing court, and free legal services for all low-income renters.

• Provide targeted financial assistance to landlords that enable long term renter stability.
How can we stabilize low-income renter households before they face housing insecurity?

**OPPORTUNITY**

- Expand access to direct cash assistance and financial education services, such as the City’s Universal Guaranteed Income pilot.

- Continue to increase investments in the production, acquisition, and preservation of affordable housing – through City efforts like Proposition HHH and Project Homekey – to help **boost the supply of housing that is truly affordable for low-income tenants.**

- Strengthen and expand renter protections like the Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance that safeguard against harassment and promote safe, habitable homes.
How can we begin to dismantle the structural inequities that underpin intergenerational housing insecurity?

- Expand access to intergenerational wealth building through homeownership, including cooperative ownership models.
- Promote fair housing by increasing enforcement resources and dismantling exclusionary zoning and housing practices, building on the City’s Assessment of Fair Housing.
- Coordinate with the healthcare, education, and justice systems to provide wrap-around services and build intersectional support for housing investments.
Next Steps

The Mayor’s Office of City Homelessness Initiatives will continue to engage partners and the public in a conversation about housing insecurity, rooted in the lived experience of Angelenos.

We’re Continuing the Conversation

We will be particularly intentional about engaging the communities whose experiences were not represented in this initial research, including those who identify as LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities. We will seek ways to update this resource to incorporate the feedback we receive.

This resource and the dialogue it sparks will help inform the City’s ongoing efforts to address promote housing stability, including:

- The Stay Housed L.A. Eviction Defense Program
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Education and enforcement of the City’s Rent Stabilization Ordinance and Tenant Anti-Harassment Ordinance
- Services offered through the FamilySource Center System and other community-based partners
- Poverty reduction efforts, including the Universal Basic Income pilot
- Efforts to further fair housing
Join the conversation!

Share your experiences, ideas, and feedback:

bit.ly/la_housingsecurity_convo
Thank You!
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- L.A. Mayor’s Office Office of International Affairs
- New Economics for Women (NEW)
- Strategic Actions For a Just Economy (SAJE)

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Community Partners

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Citations


