



Housing

Alexandria thrives when everyone has a safe, stable, affordable place to call home.

The Opportunity

Housing is the foundation of a diverse and vibrant community. Families need housing to raise healthy, happy children, young adults need housing that lets them live close to their jobs and older adults need safe housing to age in place. Yet monthly housing costs account for the single highest living expense of Alexandrians. One out of five Alexandria households earning up to \$75,000 per year currently spends 30% or more of their income on housing. That means that many of our essential workers are burdened with high housing costs. For example, a starting teacher in Alexandria City Public Schools makes \$61,000 for 240 contract days. COVID-19, and its resulting job and wage losses, has exacerbated existing housing challenges and increased the threat of eviction.

All of us need housing that is affordable so we have money left over for other important expenses, like food, education, and health care. The City must act now to ensure that people from all races, ages, and incomes can live here, or we will lose even more of the diversity that makes our City great. The City must make smart, innovative investments in a diverse mix of housing options.

Goals:

- Use creative approaches to discover opportunities, use public resources efficiently, consider development tradeoffs, increase climate resilience, and make housing work for all Alexandrians
- Preserve and expand housing options, including homeownership opportunities, for Alexandria's low- and moderate-income workers and families who serve our community and power our economy
- Leverage all of our available tools and resources, including density, redeveloping underutilized civic and faith properties, and cultivating partnerships with anchor institutions
- Accelerate efforts to improve stormwater management and flood mitigation, including investing in short term neighborhood scale solutions, increasing funding for Storm Sewer Capacity projects, and investing in long-term infrastructure improvements
- Create an "OUR RFP" process (Request for Proposals) that allows community residents to provide input, before the development process begins, on what they want to see at a particular site before the RFP is issued by the City (within zoning and other restrictions)
- Build upon and invest in the Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership (AEPP), a collaboration between ALIVE!, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, the Lazarus Ministry and the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance to expand eviction prevention operations
- Rebuild aging and dilapidated buildings into safer, healthier buildings that include advanced security technology and broadband connections allowing for children to access high-speed internet for educational purposes
- Ensure housing is a critical component of the Landmark Mall Redevelopment

Let's Work Together

- How do we ensure that people who are serving our community, including our essential workers, can afford to live here?
- How do we measure success in determining where and how we grow? Who is included in determining that success?
- How do we promote equitable development and prevent displacement?
- What new opportunities and tools are needed to help address Alexandria's unique housing affordability challenges? (e.g. underutilized office space, multi-use sites, etc.)

Alyia's Approach

Alyia is committed to advancing equitable results. Alyia knows that the people who are affected by a problem are most likely to know what's needed to fix it. She is prepared to reach out, ask questions, hear all perspectives, and review the data. She will work with the community to marshal our collective imagination to figure out next steps and implement a plan.