Preservation of dedicated affordable housing

Many of the housing policy tools discussed on LocalHousingSolutions.org can help to support the preservation of dedicated affordable rental housing.

Dedicated affordable housing

What is the scope of the preservation challenge for dedicated affordable rental housing, i.e., housing subject to rent and tenant-income restrictions? View the presentation.

Brief: Preserving the existing stock of dedicated affordable rental housing

Most cities, towns, and counties have substantial numbers of units of dedicated affordable rental housing produced by HUD programs between the late 1960s and the mid-1980s, and by the Low Income Housing Tax Credit since the late 1980s. Many of these units are potentially at risk of being lost from the inventory of dedicated affordable rental housing due to expiring affordability restrictions that allow owners to decline to renew their participation, or options for owners to opt out of subsidy programs midstream. Dedicated affordable housing may also be in deteriorating physical condition that renders it uninhabitable or leads to occupancy problems that cause the property to fail financially. This brief describes how policies in the Housing Policy Library can be used to keep these units available over the long term. Read the brief.

Brief: Determining the duration of required affordability for dedicated affordable housing

While long-term affordability is the best way to get the most value from every dollar of investment, it does bring some trade-offs that need to be considered when designing policies. This brief describes some of those considerations, as well as steps that cities can take to mitigate potential downsides. Read the brief.

Brief: Balancing the preservation of existing affordable housing with new construction

This brief identifies a series of questions that communities can use to determine whether to prioritize a particular property for preservation. Read the brief.

Selected local housing policies

Preservation inventories
Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD)
Tax abatements and exemptions
Demolition taxes or condo conversion fees
Transfers of development rights
Rights of first refusal
Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
Capital subsidies for affordable housing developments

Related content
Issue brief: Balancing the preservation of existing affordable housing with new construction
Issue brief: Determining the duration of required affordability for dedicated affordable housing
Housing Policy Library section: Preserving Existing Affordable Housing
Housing Policy Library section: Enhancing Renters’ Housing Stability
Resources on preservation of market affordable housing
Resources on building public support for affordable housing
Video: What is affordable housing and who needs it?
External resources for preservation of dedicated affordable housing