## Employer investments into housing



7目 Why is this topic important?

Employer investments into housing is important for communities to have access to a variety of housing types as well as affordable options.

Investments by employers into ensuring that there is an adequate supply of housing is crucial for inclusive regional economic development as it directly addresses the housing affordability crisis.

A workforce that has equitable access to housing can result in shorter commute times, stronger community bonds, and more opportunities to increase disposable income. This strategy helps address the housing affordability crisis by increasing the available stock of housing types and entry price points, reducing the displacement of residents due to rising housing costs and short-term rental markets.



## What we have heard from the community ...

Amy, who has a background in early childhood education, mentioned that a lot of the housing that's being built in the region is out of financial reach for residents and that they end up being AirBnBs or sitting empty. Amy said that even as part of a dualincome household, purchasing was still impossible.

Nowadays when you even try to go for an apartment, they say you need to make three times rent just to get a down payment or anything like that. And that's honestly ridiculous, especially as a federal worker, I still don't qualify, which makes no sense because I try to do the best I can. I work overtime. Sometimes when we're at a specific fires, we're gone for 14 days and we're home for six days. And even though we get a big payout for those specific jobs and the time and travel and everything, my family still struggles with trying to find an apartment. - Greater San Bernardino



## Key data findings...

According to 2022 ACS data, almost 60% of Riverside County renters and almost 61% of San Bernardino County renters spend 30% or more of their household income on rent. Similarly, the National Low Income Housing Coalition identified the hourly wage needed to rent a two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent in the region at \$33.67. Considering that California minimum wage is \$15.50, that equates to 1.8 (Riverside County) and 1.7 (San Bernardino County) full -time



## Strategies and tactics

Collaborate and incentivize employers to invest in housing: Incentivizing major employers to develop affordable employee housing programs will encourage employers to invest in their employees and increase housing opportunities near large employment centers.

-supported housing to ensure it Partner with local governments to implement zoning requirements for employer is prioritized to provide affordable housing: Collaborating with the local government to coordinate employer supported housing will help companies abide by and prioritize affordable housing zoning laws.

Leverage public private partnerships for housing development: Leveraging public private partnerships for employee-supported housing would secure better funding and coordination between local companies and local government.



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