



# PATH TO ACTION

The Coalition's Path to Action series invites Louisvillians to learn about and discuss homelessness and housing.

**Today's Topic:** How Did We Get Here? (Wednesday, 9/6, 5:30-7pm, at West Sixth NuLu)

- **MYTH:** Homelessness is caused by a bad choice or series of bad choices made out of personal failures.
- **FACT:** Statistics from across the country show that homelessness is most strongly correlated with the availability or lack of low-cost housing, even when tested against mental illness, drug use, poverty, weather, generosity of public assistance, and low-income mobility. (Source: *Homelessness Is a Housing Problem*, Gregg Colburn). Therefore, homelessness is a policy and funding choice made by governments, not a personal choice by individuals.
- Since the Great Depression, our government has incentivized and prioritized homeownership—mostly for white people—through these choices, formalized through policy decisions:
  - Who deserved (and didn't deserve) access to capital and property
  - Where that capital could (and couldn't) flow
  - The prioritization of homeownership over renting
- Housing is the answer to homelessness—specifically housing that poor people can afford.

## Deeper Dive

- **Book:** Homelessness Is a Housing Problem by Gregg Colburn, [available at Carmichael's](#)
- **Podcast:** Future Hindsight podcast featuring Colburn: [Solving Homelessness \(2/16/23\)](#)
- **Local Recommendations:** Read our recommendations here: [louhomeless.org/newpath](#).

## Join Us

- **Get action alerts for low-income housing:** go to [louhomeless.org/advocate](#) to sign up. We need to be louder and we need to be present to ensure low-income housing is built in all of our neighborhoods.
- **Mark your calendar** to silently join us in support of low-income housing: a) Tuesday, 9/19, 1pm, Planning & Zoning Committee, and b) Thursday, 9/28, 6pm, at the full Metro Council meeting.
- **Donate money** to the Coalition for the Homeless next Thursday, 9/14, during [Give for Good!](#)

## Save the Dates

- **Backpack Stuffing.** Wednesday, 9/27, 11am-1pm, at our office (1300 S. Fourth Street) to stuff backpacks for unsheltered Louisvillians. Pizza provided! RSVP to [ejohns@louhomeless.org](mailto:ejohns@louhomeless.org).
- **Path to Action #2: Shelters Are Full. What Next?** Wednesday, 10/11, 8:30-10am at North Lime Coffee & Donuts (1228 S. 7th Street, Louisville, KY 40203)
- **Path to Action #3: Housing First.** Wednesday, 11/15, 4-5:30pm, at the BA Colonial (818 W. Kenwood Dr, Louisville, KY 40214)