

# **Room for All**

---

## **The Lakeview Action Coalition's Campaign for affordable housing and diverse neighborhoods**

### **Main Components of the Campaign:**

- 1) **Raising awareness and political will:** Through small group discussions and voter registration/ education we want to work to develop the community will necessary to make affordable housing a priority for the key stakeholders that shape our community: fellow residents, employers and businesses, elected officials, developers, and government officials.
- 2) **Identifying issues and resources:** Identifying specific affordable housing issues and housing resources that matter to us. For example: preserving Section 8 housing, preserving SROs, requiring affordable set-asides, promoting smart housing policies, etc. (see attached sheet for more information)
- 3) **Taking action together:** Working together on common affordable housing issues that we can have a real impact on in our communities and in collaboration with effective citywide efforts.

### **What does it mean to endorse the *Room for All* campaign?**

Endorsing the campaign means that you agree there is an affordable housing crisis in our North Side communities and you want to do your part to fight it. Signing on to the campaign means you support affordable housing (paying no more than 30% of household income) for very low income, working poor, and middle-income individuals, families and seniors on the Near North Side and throughout Chicago and the Metropolitan Area.

### **What ways can I, or my institution, get involved in the campaign?**

- 1) **Personally endorse the campaign:** By signing on we will put you on our campaign mailing list and keep you updated on strategy meetings and actions.
- 2) **Get an institutional endorsement:** Work to get your institution or organization to sign on to the campaign. Hold an affordable housing “house meeting” and invite others to attend and learn about the campaign.
- 3) **Come to a strategy meeting or action:** Get involved in working on the issues by attending a strategy meeting or supporting a specific action around housing.
- 4) **Get more information by contacting the Lakeview Action Coalition office:**  
*(773) 549-1947 x364 or [www.lakeviewaction.org](http://www.lakeviewaction.org)*

## **Why an affordable housing campaign:**

An affordable housing crisis afflicts our city and region and directly affects a wide range of people: very low-income, working poor, and moderate-income families and individuals, seniors, the disabled, and others. We desire to live in a community where **all** can afford housing: from those wanting to escape homelessness to those who work in our community to those who worship in our community to those who receive care and services in our community to young individuals to young families starting out and older seniors retiring. We believe that desirable communities such as ours have a moral responsibility to provide housing opportunities for all, not just those with high incomes. In addition, we believe that by including affordable housing in the present and future plans of our community, we will be better able to address key quality of life issues (traffic congestion, diversity, stable and strong property values, and economic development) that affect all of us. We wish to create a community on the North Side of Chicago that ensures a place for everyone.

## **In Lakeview and Lincoln Park...**

Complete data is not yet available for the 2000 census, but there are some noteworthy trends in the 1980 and 1990 figures (available in The Community Fact Book).

- The trends are that home values are increasing much more rapidly than household income, forcing residents to spend a greater share of earnings on housing.
- Housing costs and incomes have increased, but the diversity of age and ethnicity in residents has decreased significantly.

Based on a recent snapshot of available rental or for-sale housing of over 600 listings:

- Only 5 units (studio apt) rent for less than \$500/month; wage needed: \$9.50/hr X 40hrs.
- To be able to afford the least expensive one-bedroom apartment, of which there were only 10, a person needs to make about \$12.20/hr. x 40hrs
- To buy the least expensive single-family home listed in the area (\$344,600), a household would need to earn at least \$124,800/yr.

## **What do we mean by affordable housing:**

We believe that affordable housing means that no one has to spend more than 30% of their income on housing. If you are spending less than 30% of your income on housing, then you have obtained “affordable” housing. The greatest need for affordable housing is felt amongst low-income or moderate-income households. Low-income households, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), are those families that make at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Moderate-income families, as defined by HUD, are families that make between 80% and 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The AMI for Chicago Metro Region is \$75,400. We want to preserve and create more housing for these groups on the North Side of Chicago.

*The Lakeview Action Coalition (LAC) is a non-profit, multi-issue community organization. The Coalition has 40 institutional members-including religious congregations, non-profit agencies, tenants’ groups, banks, a public school, a credit union and a senior citizens’ caucus – that are stakeholders in the Chicago neighborhoods of Lakeview, North Center and Lincoln Park.*