

50

Things You Can Do to Help with Workforce Housing in Ashland...

- 1.) Talk to friends and neighbors about the need for more workforce housing.
- 2.) Build workforce housing on property that you own.
- 3.) Attend a Housing Commission meeting.
- 4.) Google “workforce housing” to see what other places have done.
- 5.) Read a book or magazine article on the topic.
- 6.) Spread the word to friends and neighbors about the next meeting regarding workforce housing.
- 7.) E-mail City Councilors encouraging their support of workforce housing.
- 8.) E-mail Planning Commissioners encouraging their support of workforce housing. Encourage them to explore more creative planning/zoning/housing solutions.
- 9.) E-mail School Board members encouraging their support of workforce housing.
- 10.) Find out more about projections for the future of Ashland.
- 11.) Network with others in Ashland to address workforce housing.
- 12.) Speak with at least one person on the City Council, Planning Commission, School Board, or Parks Commission about the issue.
- 13.) Start a website on this topic to help generate discussion and ideas.
- 14.) Write a letter-to-the-editor of the Ashland Daily Tidings.
- 15.) Write a letter-to-the-editor of the Medford Mail Tribune.
- 16.) Talk to Kevin Preister about the Discovery Process and how it might help with this issue.
- 17.) Invite someone from another community who has experienced this problem to come and speak (Jim Kent from Basalt, Colorado, for example).
- 18.) Promote awareness of the need for workforce housing among the retired community.
- 19.) Talk to people who you feel may be able to have an impact.
- 20.) Contribute a percentage of your home's sales price to the Ashland Housing Trust Fund.
- 21.) Speak to your employer about the need for workforce housing.
- 22.) Go to a City Council meeting and make a brief comment in support of workforce housing.
- 23.) Include your house in estate planning -- donate your home to the Ashland Community Land Trust.
- 24.) Support the creation of a local Housing Trust Fund.
- 25.) Create an access TV show on this issue to generate discussion, ideas and awareness.
- 26.) Attend a Joint Meeting of the Ashland City Council, Ashland Parks Commission and the Ashland School Board. Encourage them to work together on the issue of workforce housing.
- 27.) Write a letter to a state representative encouraging them to push for inclusionary zoning. (Inclusionary zoning = balance in housing = a percentage of the housing built needs to be affordable to the workforce. Inclusionary zoning was pre-empted in Oregon law in 1999.)
- 28.) Call a state representative and encourage them to push for more funding for workforce housing.

- 29.) Encourage state legislators to explore the possibility of a document recording fee that would help fund the state housing trust fund. (Washington State has a document recording fee.)
- 30.) Research other area's solutions to see which solutions might work here. Look into Santa Fe, New Mexico; Aspen, Colorado; Fort Collins, Colorado; Boulder, Colorado.
- 31.) Elect politicians who care about workforce housing.
- 32.) Call City Hall once a month and leave a message for the Mayor and City Administrator regarding the need for workforce housing.
- 33.) Help start an awareness campaign (with Housing Commission, Chamber of Commerce, and local non-profits) using posters on buses depicting a doctor, firefighter, teacher, etc., with slogans: "She can save your life, but she can't be your neighbor," "He can be a hero, but he can't be your neighbor," and "She can teach your child calculus, but she can't be your neighbor."
- 34.) Help get a coalition of groups together to work on this issue locally.
- 35.) Start a Friday café discussion group to discuss the issue.
- 36.) Create a computer generated graph/visual projection showing what we have done in the area of workforce housing and what we need to do.
- 37.) Gather opinions from various community members and organizations.
- 38.) Research the effect that a lack of workforce housing has on our local hospital.
- 39.) Start a "Save Ashland" campaign with bumper stickers and a website.
- 40.) Hold a neighborhood garage sale event to promote awareness and donate proceeds to a housing trust fund or a non-profit housing provider such as Habitat for Humanity.
- 41.) Go to a Planning Commission meeting and make a comment in support of workforce housing. Speak in support of workforce housing projects when projects are being reviewed by the Planning Commission.
- 42.) Call state legislators and ask them to lift the pre-emption of a real estate transfer fee.
- 43.) Support the development of a real estate transfer fee locally.
- 44.) Support non-profit housing providers such as Ashland Community Land Trust (ACLT), Habitat for Humanity, RVCDC, and ACCESS, Inc.
- 45.) Direct people to Southern Oregon Housing Resource Center (ACCESS, Inc.).
- 46.) Talk to friends who are in the building industry and encourage them to do what they can to support workforce housing.
- 47.) Talk to friends who are in the real estate business and encourage them to do what they can to support workforce housing (discounts for teachers, for example).
- 48.) Go to a School Board meeting and make a comment in support of workforce housing.
- 49.) Think outside the box!
- 50.) We've left this one open for you -- insert your own idea here and let us know what it is!

These "50 Things You Can Do to Help with Workforce Housing in Ashland" came directly from participants in the Community Forum on Workforce Housing held May 4th, 2006.

Produced in partnership with Save Our Schools & Playgrounds, Ashland Housing Commission and members of the Ashland Community

Contact us: www.ashlandsosp.org and www.ashland.or.us