Talking Points: Minnesota

These talking points are meant to be used during conversations with Minnesota state lawmakers, potential allies and the media.

* A growing number of Minnesotans are struggling to find housing they can afford. It is a clear strain on families that must be addressed.
* In lieu of innovative solutions, both St. Paul and Minneapolis adopted rent controls measures that are already having a chilling effect on the cities’ need to address housing shortages.Multiple housing developers opted to halt construction as investors pulled out from projects that were already underway, putting hundreds of new and much-needed housing units at risk.
* Instead of misguided policies like rent control, we need solutions that get to the root of the problem and address the needs of all residents.
* First, we must address the tremendous shortage of homes and remove barriers to adding more supply.
  + [62% of low-income renters](https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/SHP_MN.pdf) in Minnesota spend more than half their income on housing. Between now and 2030, Minnesota will need to add [5,435 new apartment homes](https://www.weareapartments.org/data/Minnesota/) every year to keep up with demand.
  + Vacancy rates [show](https://www.nmhc.org/research-insight/research-notes/2021/affordability-toolkit-redux/) that there is still a supply and demand imbalance, and the COVID-related downturn financially harmed those that were already struggling the most, continuing to make it difficult for those at the lower end of the income spectrum to find an affordable unit.
* Second, state and local governments should explore creative, public-private partnership opportunities to bring the price point down to create more affordable housing.
* Third, we must use targeted subsidies to help the neediest families today. These solutions will lead to a wider range of housing options being built, from apartments and duplexes, to single-family homes and townhouses.
* We need to learn from the mistakes of cities like San Francisco and New York, which, due to increased regulation, housing opposition, rent control laws, and other factors, now have the highest median rents in country.
* When considering rent control, Minnesota would be better served implementing [solutions](https://www.nmhc.org/research-insight/research-report/the-impacts-of-rent-control-a-research-review-and-synthesis/) that will truly make a dent in addressing our housing affordability challenges.