

Want to Learn More?

Interested in Joining the Team?

We welcome invitations from groups and organizations in the region to speak about our work, hear your thoughts and concerns regarding housing, and to discuss potential solutions.

The Housing Coalition also invites your involvement, help, and support. If you are interested in joining a committee, being an on-call volunteer, or offering your financial support, please contact us.

There are many ways **you can make a difference** in addressing the housing challenge that, as a region, we face today. Among many opportunities, you can help educate others on who is impacted, speak to your local officials about the need for affordable workforce housing, and support responsible housing and zoning proposals.

The Housing Coalition exists to provide information, resources, and solution-driven tools for the community. Being an independent corporation, it is not affiliated with any one interest group, and its true strength lies in its breadth and amount of support and involvement from its members.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Visit the Housing Coalition at:

www.UVHC.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The Upper Valley Housing Coalition's mission is to work to increase the supply of diverse workforce housing in our region. We believe there is a direct link between economic development, quality of life, and an adequate supply of housing. Our members are leaders from various sectors- business, education, real estate, nonprofit, land development, banking/finance, faith communities, municipal and state government, and citizens at large.

To implement this initiative the Coalition has created several standing and ad hoc committees to carry forward the work needed to responsibly increase the supply of workforce and affordable housing.

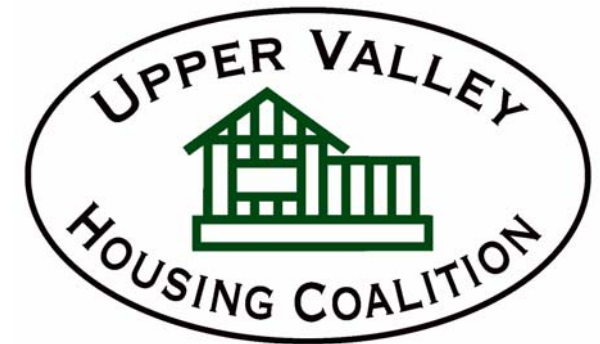


BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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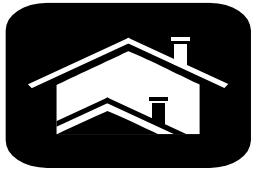
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO



*Promoting Responsible Housing
Opportunities for the Region*

www.UVHC.org

History of the Coalition



Promoting responsible housing for all needs

Over 200 business, municipal and civic leaders attended a day-long Workforce Housing Summit in November of 2001. Organized by a task force, the Summit addressed the scarcity of available ownership and rental housing.

The focus was housing classified as affordable for the majority of the workforce, which are households earning under \$75,000 per year. A shortage of 3,100 units, as measured solely by demand today, was verified by the *Upper Valley Housing Needs Analysis*. This number is expected to triple by the end of the decade if recent historic patterns continue unchanged. The Housing Coalition was created in January of 2002 as the means to bring together the different constituencies affected by the housing shortage and serve as the vehicle to help them all be a part of the solution together.

The Upper Valley region faces a housing shortage now because it is a highly desirable place to live and work. Its own success and strengths have drawn many prestigious companies to the region, resulting in the creation of approximately 10,000 new jobs over the past decade.

The Upper Valley is a thriving and caring community, which is why the Housing Coalition has already attracted hundreds of volunteers from every sector of the region, and boasts nearly 100 Leadership Partners representing leaders from the private and public sectors.

This diverse collection of people is working under a Board of Directors to address the housing challenge via a three-pronged plan, which is to:

- Educate
- Advocate
- Legislate

“...the lack of workforce housing in this region is creating a serious drag on our strong economy. Until the Housing Coalition started addressing the problem there was very little hope anything would change. With an issue as complex as housing, change comes slowly, but the prospect for change is very real thanks to the Upper Valley Housing Coalition.”

Steve Christy, President and CEO
Mascoma Savings Bank

What If We Do Nothing?

A major concern about a lack of available housing close to centers of employment is that the **region's economy** will not only stagnate, but may slide backward. Such a development would adversely affect everyone in the Upper Valley. Local businesses report they are having an increasingly difficult time recruiting and retaining all levels of employees because they are unable to find housing that is affordable and/or nearby.



Continued growth patterns, combined with a lengthy regulatory process and antiquated land use regulations, could cause us to continue the sprawling patterns of development of the past several decades. **Quality of life**, as well as employment opportunities, brought many of us to this region. However, continued scattered and sprawling residential development will lead to longer and more expensive commutes. This, coupled with a growing disconnect between residents and their communities, results in a loss of time one can spend with family.



Smart Housing is reachable by multiple methods of transportation

A growing number of people living further from jobs and services will cause **increased traffic and pollution**. In light of the growing problem of congestion on our roads coupled with climate change, this is an issue we can no longer ignore.

Sprawl also results in higher costs for road maintenance, police, and other municipal services. Further, the absence of a range of available housing in our communities will create an increasing **lack of diversity** and vibrancy in our communities.

By taking action now to address these challenges, the Housing Coalition will work to protect our quality of life, raise awareness of the problems brought on by a prolonged housing shortage, and assist in spurring an increased production of responsible housing for the workforce of the Upper Valley.



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Our Ideas For A Solution



Housing closer to jobs allows for more time with family

The Housing Coalition is working on several new tools and programs to increase awareness and acceptance for the housing needs of the region. These should also assist in the production of new homes, for the benefit of all in the Upper Valley.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- Promote our **Project Endorsement Guidelines** for use as a resource, evaluation, and educational tool for new housing.
- Support **town-sponsored initiatives** and well-planned **housing proposals** that are consistent with our Endorsement Guidelines.
- Implement our **Regional Housing Fund** to aid in providing increased opportunities for affordable housing through land banking and a revolving loan fund.
- Expand our **Toolkit** for municipalities and residents to help direct future development in accordance with the principles of Smart Growth.
- Develop additional **multi-media and other educational tools** about the regional housing challenge and ideas for solutions.
- Use our **Speakers Bureau** to educate and inform on housing issues.
- **Serve as a resource and directory** for developers, individuals, municipalities, and nonprofits.
- Coordinate with the Upper Valley Transportation Management Association and other organizations to **facilitate enhanced transportation and growth options**.
- Expand our **Database** of the attributes that affect housing construction for all Upper Valley cities and towns, which is to be used as an educational and informational resource.



My children can't afford to live in the community where they grew up."

Pastor Joe Scarbo
Olivet Baptist Church
Lebanon, NH

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