



# A housing shortage



# THE COLUMBUS STRATEGY

The Columbus Region faces a housing crisis that already is beginning to displace working families and force our most vulnerable residents into homelessness. Mayor Ginther has a plan to address our housing shortage by building new units, but we cannot do it alone. Today, Central Ohio is experiencing unprecedented population growth, but without a proportionate increase in places for people to live. This is not sustainable.

A destabilized housing market undermines our region's advantages of affordability, economic mobility and high quality of life. It's forcing working families to live further away from their jobs, creating negative impacts on the environment and everyone's daily commute. Businesses are struggling to hire workers, forcing some to close or relocate, and keeping others from ever opening at all. And many of our most vulnerable residents, disproportionately households headed by women or people of color, are being displaced.

In order to reverse our region's current trajectory, we need a regional coalition that includes the private sector, regional municipalities, and neighborhood residents to participate in the Columbus strategy for an affordable, equitable and competitive Central Ohio. We also need our residents to embrace new housing density not only throughout the region, but in their own neighborhoods.

The strategy is both simple and ambitious.

**We will BUILD the housing infrastructure needed to accommodate our growth and make sure our residents still have a place to call home.** We must double the number of units coming to market in the next 15 years. The City of Columbus is leading in this charge by streamlining our codes, policies, and processes so that units can be built without unnecessary cost and delay. Meanwhile, we must protect our residents from the impacts of a housing shortage. This means we must:

- **PRESERVE** existing affordability in order to minimize displacement in our growing neighborhoods. This includes taking legislative action to protect renters, supporting eviction protection programs and helping low-income homeowners remain in their homes.
- **INVEST** in housing the market won't provide. The 2019 City of Columbus bond package has allowed the city to build more than 1,300 new units. With voter approval of the 2022 affordable housing bond package, Columbus will bring thousands of additional units online in the next five years. With regional support, we can fund new affordable housing, including supportive housing and family-sized units.
- **INCLUDE** everyone by addressing racial and economic disparities and fostering diverse neighborhoods. This will be achieved through inclusive housing policies, direct investment in Black homeownership, and alignment of housing with transportation plans to ensure long-term connectivity.