



East Bay Housing Organizations

2011–2012

# Affordable Housing Guidebook

*Affordable Housing: Investing Now For Our Future*

[www.EBHO.org](http://www.EBHO.org)



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# Affordable Housing:

## Investing Now for Our Future

Every year since 1997, East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) has produced the East Bay Affordable Housing Guidebook as part of our annual Affordable Housing Week. It's an essential resource that can be used throughout the year.

The guidebook highlights the long-term benefits that affordable housing brings to residents and communities, including improved quality of life, family health and stability, public safety, and jobs. Articles by experts in the field explore trends in affordable housing policies, and explain how investing in affordable housing now gives families a brighter future by breaking the cycle of

poverty and homelessness. Building profiles display beautifully designed and high-quality, well-managed properties, while inspiring resident stories highlight just a few of the people who live in affordable housing. Resource listings help those seeking an affordable place to live. Throughout, we provide practical information about how you can get involved in promoting affordable housing.

### How Do I Use This Guidebook?

**Advocates and Community Members:** Inform your neighbors and constituencies about affordable housing initiatives and coalitions in the East Bay and ways to make a difference.

**Elected Officials and Local Government Staff:** Find examples of creative collaborations between local government, non-profit organizations and community groups. See what affordable housing developments could look like in your community.

**People Looking for Affordable Housing:** Turn to pages 19 and 20 to find valuable resources to help you in your search for affordable housing. Learn about the causes and solutions of the current housing crisis and how you can get involved.

**Developers:** See new affordable housing developments, read about successful community initiatives, and learn how you can encourage your residents to advocate for affordable housing.

**Funders:** Find out about new, innovative affordable housing developments and the non-profits behind them. See how your community investments in housing and advocacy campaigns are changing the lives of real people.

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And remember that you too can get involved with EBHO by becoming a member today! Please visit [www.EBHO.org](http://www.EBHO.org) for more information.

# About EBHO

## Letter to our readers

Welcome to the 15th Annual Edition of **East Bay Housing Organizations' Affordable Housing Guidebook**. We are proud that the

Guidebook continues to be an essential tool for activists and advocates, people seeking affordable housing, non-profit developers and service providers, public officials, and city and county agencies.

**This year's theme, "Affordable Housing: Investing Now for Our Future," highlights the critical moment we're in.** With deep state and

federal budget cuts ahead, local communities are feeling the impacts. The most vulnerable among us—low-income and working families, youth, seniors, people with disabilities—will be hit the hardest. Without continued public investment in essential services and infrastructure, more people will become homeless.

Now is the time to build and preserve high-quality affordable housing so that children and youth have the stability to become our next generation of leaders. Seniors can live with the dignity they deserve. Workers can live close to their jobs. People with disabilities can have the support they need to live independently and thrive.

This guidebook shows how **investing in affordable housing improves our quality of life and promotes community and economic development.**

It demonstrates how affordable housing improves community safety and children's performance in school. It explores the link between housing, transportation and climate change.

We have seen what happens when housing costs outstrip people's incomes. We are aware of the devastating effects of homelessness, foreclosure and displacement. Let's imagine a different future: one in which everyone has the opportunity to rent or buy a home that they can afford for the long term—that meets their needs, creates stronger community, and is good for the environment.

### EBHO Affordable Housing Guidebook

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**EBHO Staff** from left to right: Rev. Phil Lawson, Joyet Beyene, Shawn Rowland, Amie Fishman, Gloria Bruce, and Peter Cohen

**This guidebook gives a glimpse of that future.** We show non-profit developers building and sustaining the highest-quality affordable housing. We introduce you to residents who have benefitted from affordable housing. We highlight what you can do to promote affordable housing.

EBHO's current programs and campaigns include:

- **Organizing** educational campaigns including EBHO's 15th Annual Affordable Housing Week from May 6th–May 15th, 2011
- **Coordinating** affordable housing policy campaigns and coalitions in communities including Oakland and Concord
- **Engaging** affordable housing residents and interfaith leaders in advocacy
- **Advocating** for housing policy solutions throughout the East Bay and beyond to promote healthy families and the environment, and to prevent homelessness

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

*Amie Fishman*  
Amie Fishman  
Executive Director

*Anne Cory*  
Anne Cory  
Board President



# About East Bay Housing Organizations

**Affordable Housing** is a crucial investment in our future, helping to promote healthy families and sustainable communities.

East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) is a 27-year-old non-profit membership organization dedicated to working with communities across Alameda and Contra Costa counties to preserve, protect and expand affordable housing opportunities through education, advocacy and coalition building. Since 1984, EBHO's members have been behind many of the innovative affordable housing initiatives in our communities.

EBHO's membership, made up of over 300 organizations and individuals, includes non-profit housing developers; affordable housing and homeless advocates; social service providers; affordable housing architects and builders; fair housing and tenants rights agencies; community organizations; labor unions; environmental organizations; clergy, congregations and inter-faith groups; city and county agencies and staff; affordable housing intermediaries and community lending institutions.

## Our work is accomplished in three ways:

**Educating** elected officials, planning commissions, civic organizations, neighborhood associations, faith-based and community groups, the business community and the general public about the affordable housing crisis and its solutions

**Organizing** affordable housing residents and advocacy campaigns to increase resources for affordable housing development and to promote policies that create and preserve affordable housing opportunities

**Building** strong coalitions with grassroots community and interfaith groups, labor unions, environmental organizations and non-profit affordable housing developers to work together and take action.



**EBHO Board** — Front row: Louise Bourassa, Darin Lounds, Anne Cory, and David Dologite Back row: Rick Williams, Eve Stewart, Patricia Osage, Catherine Bishop, Peggy Jen, and Wendy Jackson

## Get involved!

If you or your organization would like to learn more about affordable housing or take part in affordable housing advocacy, EBHO can assist through the following activities:

- Presentations and educational materials about current innovative affordable housing solutions and policies
- Action alerts, advocacy, training and information about local, regional and state campaigns to promote affordable housing
- Connecting affordable housing advocates and community members to develop strategy, collaborate, and push for equitable and responsible affordable housing solutions.

## For more information about EBHO, please contact us at:

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**Phone** 510-663-3830

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Join us and learn more at [www.EBHO.org](http://www.EBHO.org)

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### EBHO Board of Directors

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