Help us make housing accessible to everyone by increasing the supply of affordable and supportive housing. Housing provides the foundation for life stability and success. Everyone deserves a home.

STAY INFORMED AT:
UWAY.ORG and SCHOMELESS.ORG.

The major cause of homelessness in the U.S. is a lack of affordable housing. People cannot find places that they can afford, particularly in urban settings where homelessness is more prevalent. United Way of the Midlands organized a survey asking people about their experience of homelessness.

Here’s what more than 300 people had to say.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition says housing is “out of reach” for people who earn minimum wage in every state in the U.S.

In South Carolina, someone would need to be paid $14.57 an hour in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

Almost 1/5 of respondents said they do not have a home because of family violence, divorce, a death in the family or an argument with family and friends.

Seventy-eight percent say they are currently looking for housing, and 50% say they can afford to pay something for housing, just not fair market rent. The most common amount people say they can pay is $300 to $400 a month.

The majority of respondents are looking for jobs; 58% are actively searching for work or a better job, and 20% already have one.

Almost half of respondents would be willing to live with a roommate if someone offered them housing.

Sixty-one percent of the homeless population surveyed said they have trouble finding a place to sleep, 55% said they have trouble getting enough to eat and 47% said they have trouble staying safe.

Nearly 1/3 of respondents said losing a job was the main cause of their homelessness.

A HIGH COST
FAIR MARKET RENT
$656 for a 1-bedroom
$778 for a 2-bedroom
$1,026 for a 3-bedroom
A LONG WAY UP THE CHALLENGES
JOB LOSS
FAMILY ISSUES
UNCOMFORTABLE

The shelter that I’m staying at has been instrumental in helping me find medical services, mental health services and substance abuse help. There are classes I take to better myself, and there are many opportunities to do service work.

The solution
AFFORDABLE HOUSING