

## USCM + AIA National Housing Survey

The National Housing Survey was distributed to mayors across the country to assess their needs and priorities in addressing the nation's housing crisis. In total, 120 cities from 43 states responded to this survey representing 34,921,066 Americans. The message from mayors is clear—the housing crisis is severe, widespread, and worsening.

### State of the Housing Crisis

#### The housing shortfall is prevalent and growing

- *Mayors warn that the deficit will increase by an additional 2,066,781 units over the next 5 years.*

#### The cost of housing is a major burden on households

- *42% of households spend more than 30% of their income on rent, mortgage payments, and other housing costs.*

#### The cost of housing has increased dramatically and across different communities

- *The median rental price has increased 18% over the past 3 years to \$1,779.81.*
- *The median sale price has increased 21% over the past 3 years to \$488,272.*

### The Urgent Need for Federal Support

#### Mayors value the many existing federal housing programs

- *Mayors very strongly support expanding existing programs, such as low-income housing credit, housing vouchers, CDBG, and HOME.*

#### Existing federal programs need funding and cities need flexibility

- *89% of respondents indicated that flexible and direct funding for cities to stimulate housing supply, preservation, or access is extremely important, or very important.*

#### Mayors nearly unanimously believe that reforms are needed to federal programs to improve effectiveness

- *87% of respondents indicated that it is extremely important, or very important for the federal government to reform and streamline existing programs.*

#### Mayors believe that inaction at the federal level will exacerbate an already deepening crisis.

- *Mayors were asked to rank the impact, relative to four key indicators – housing affordability, housing access, economic opportunity, and homelessness - of federal inaction on housing.*
- *More than 4 in 5 mayors indicated that all 4 key measures will worsen if Congress fails to pass a significant housing bill.*

## The Importance of Local Action

Mayors are leading efforts to update land use and zoning policies.

- 84% of mayors have recently updated their zoning or land use policies or are currently in the process of updating these policies.

Mayors are leading on building code updates.

- 54% of mayors have either updated or are in the process of updating their building codes.

Mayors remain committed to supporting new housing projects.

- 15% of respondents calculated that they permitted 52,937 housing projects in the past 3 years with a total estimated value of \$3,020,568,239.
- 12% of respondents calculated that they have 12,330 housing projects awaiting permits with a total estimated value of \$3,377,830,128.

## The Need for Quality Housing

Mayors understand that health and safety are important to housing.

- Among all mayors surveyed, a significant majority recognized the high importance of ensuring that new housing construction and major renovation projects do not compromise the health, safety, or wellbeing of occupants.

Mayors understand that many factors shape community livability.

- Nearly all mayors recognized the critical importance of offering diverse options, including missing middle and infill housing, to meet the unique needs of different individuals and families.

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Housing is a key issue in every city and impacts more and more residents every day. The time is now to address this long-standing issue and strengthen the “American Dream” by restoring the promise of access and opportunity to quality, affordable housing to all Americans.