Affordable Housing as a Social Determinant of Health in Cincinnati

A closer look at the Connected Communities Project

Advocacy Project – LC 9

Affordable Housing

▫ <u>Safe</u> and <u>affordable</u> housing is a social determinant of health

- o Limit pollutant exposure, mold/dust/asbestos
- o Shelter from extreme temperatures/outside exposures
- o Physical security and consistency
  - ▪ Directly linked to several other SDOH:
    1. Stable employment
    2. Family planning
    3. Regular meals and proximity to healthy food(s)
    4. Financial independence

NEWS

## Cincinnati homeless are dying on our streets

Sharon Coolidge, and Carrie Cochran Cincinnati

Dr. Bob Donovan has been providing medical care for Cincinnati's homeless people since 1988, first in a mobile van and now at a clinic in Over-the-Rhine.

The average life expectancy for a homeless person is 45 years old, he said.

Over-the-Rhine Community Housing

- Mission and Vision:
  - *develop and manage resident-centered affordable housing to build inclusive community and benefit low-income residents.*
  - *Quality stable housing for all in a socially, racially and economically inclusive community.*
- OTRCH and the Housing First principle
  - Housing as a basic human right
  - Alleviating the burden of housing insecurity/instability on vulnerable members of the community
- Facilities operated by OTRCH (*Jimmy Heath House*)
  - Stable housing for the downtrodden and less fortunate members of Cincinnati

OTRCH
COMMUNITY HOUSING
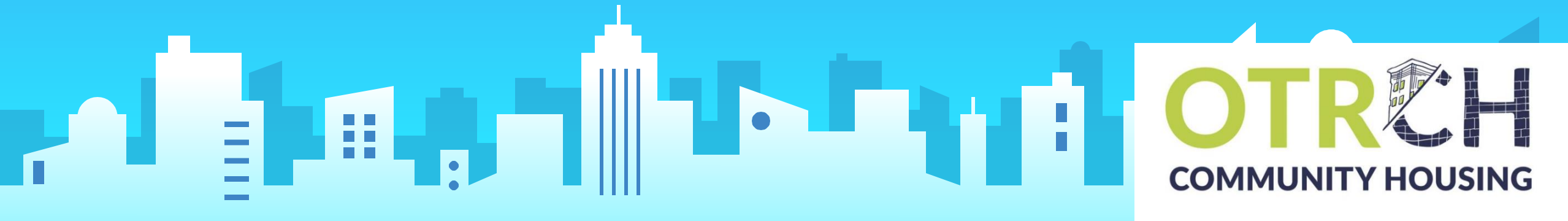
"Connected Communities"

- Cincinnati Department of City Planning & Engagement (DCPE)
- Land use & zoning policy changes
- Policy goals
  - Stabilize rental pricing
  - Relaxed parking
  - Increasing row housing zoning
  - More permission for home daycares

city of
CINCINNATI
CITY PLANNING &
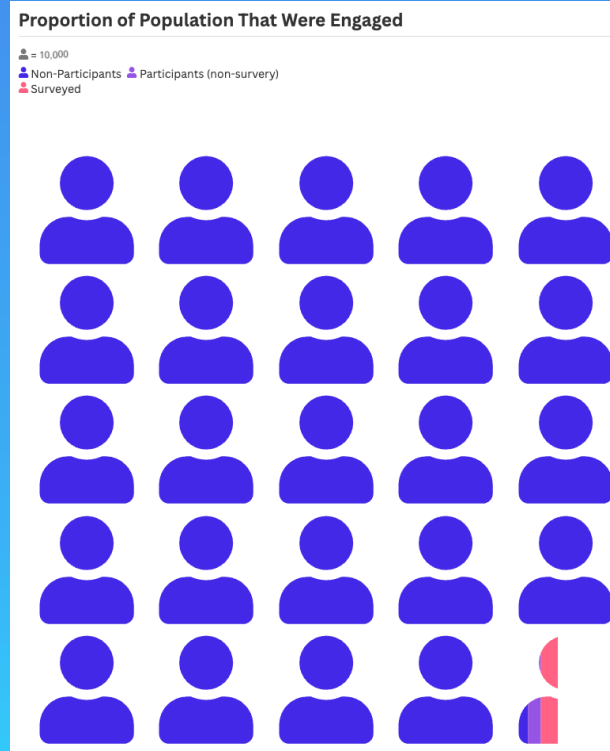ENGAGEMENT

Community Feedback

Top issues brought forth from survey respondents

1. Affordable Housing
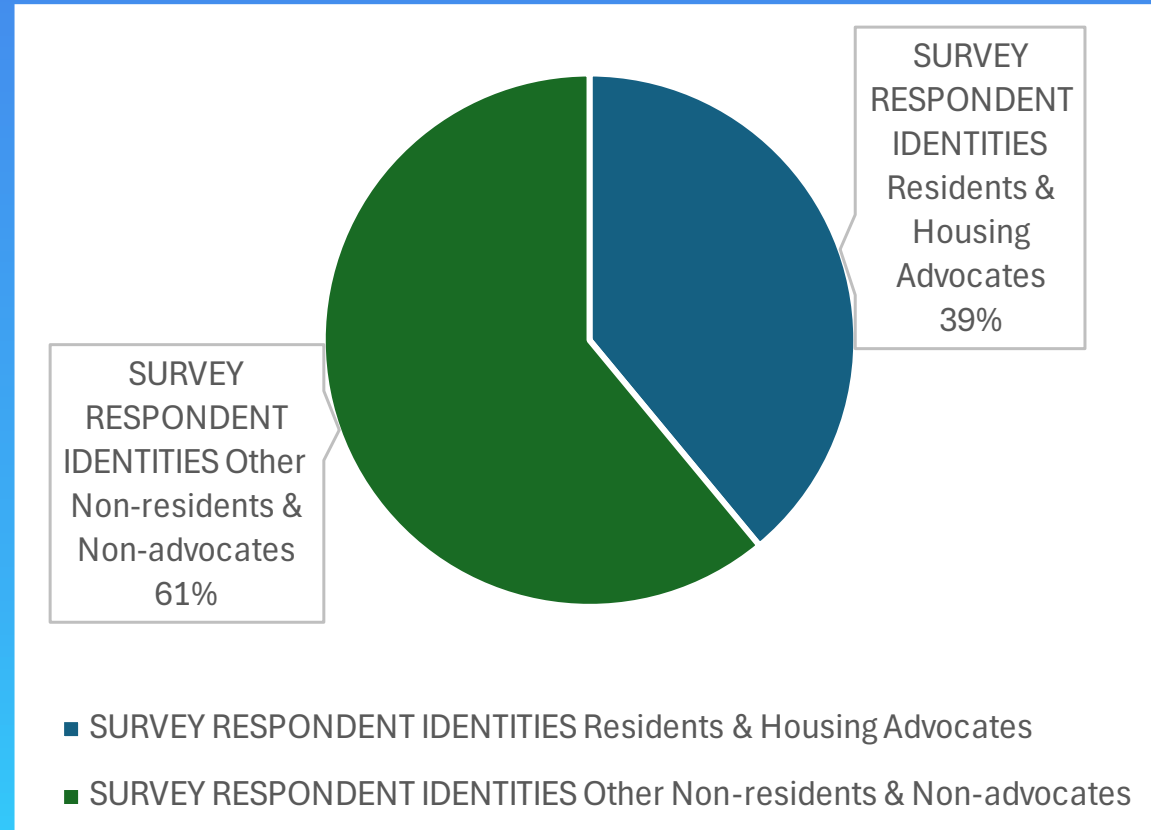2. Limited public transit
3. Parking

Several participants had concerns about many factors of the survey

Engagement with the Connected Communities Survey

Survey Respondent Identities

SURVEY RESPONDENT IDENTITIES Residents & Housing Advocates 39%

SURVEY RESPONDENT IDENTITIES Other Non-residents & Non-advocates 61%

■ SURVEY RESPONDENT IDENTITIES Residents & Housing Advocates

■ SURVEY RESPONDENT IDENTITIES Other Non-residents & Non-advocates

Current Housing Types of Survey Respondents

CURRENT HOUSING TYPES FOR RESPONDENTS Multi-Unit Buildings 22%

CURRENT HOUSING TYPES FOR RESPONDENTS Multiplex-type Buildings 15%

CURRENT HOUSING TYPES FOR RESPONDENTS Single-Family-type Buildings 63%

■ CURRENT HOUSING TYPES FOR RESPONDENTS Multi-Unit Buildings
■ CURRENT HOUSING TYPES FOR RESPONDENTS Multiplex-type Buildings
■ CURRENT HOUSING TYPES FOR RESPONDENTS Single-Family-type Buildings

Current Respondent Housing	Percentage of Respondents	Percentage of 2020 Census	Difference
Multi-Unit Buildings	22%	36%	-14%
Multiplex-type Buildings	15%	26%	-11%
Single-Family-type Buildings	62%	39%	+23%

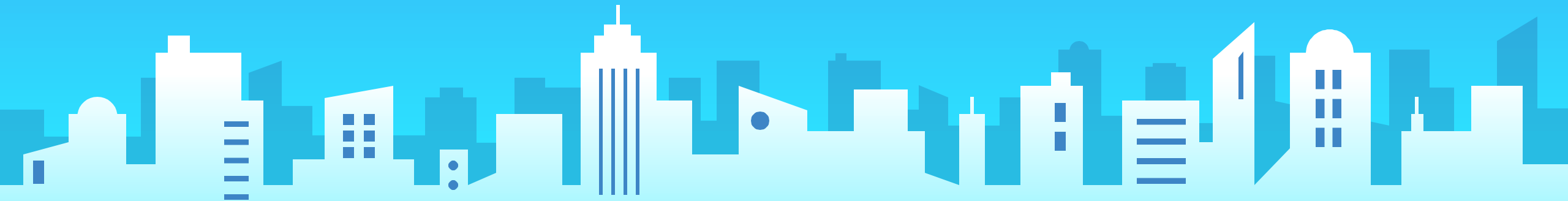# Policy Analysis

Strengths

- Considers community feedback
- Progressive perspective on urban density
- Intends to benefit vulnerable populations

Weaknesses

- Limited survey responses
- Limited responses from the extremely impoverished or unhoused Cincinnatians
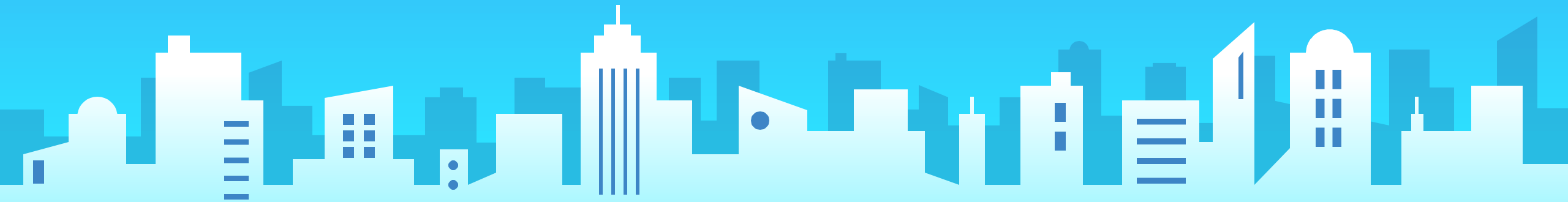- Fails to plan how to evaluate success

Our Recommendations

Additional feedback from residents of impacted communities and improve accessibility of response collection

Establish a way to evaluate the success of implementation

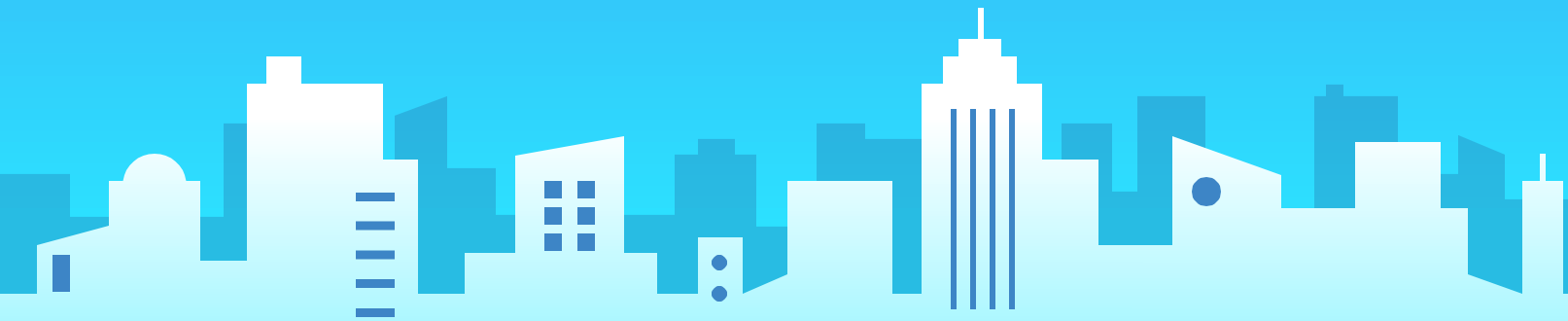Enable continued feedback and evaluation

Proposed Advocacy Strategy

- Consider impacted populations' narrative experiences

- Actively seek engagement from those experiencing housing instability

- Influence subsequent proposed zoning changes to safeguard the region from developers who aim to perpetuate housing instability

- Advocate for those experiencing housing instability by seeking compromise with developers

Housing First is a Matter of Health

Request for Support

- Supporting the Connected Communities Project
  - o Urge project leaders to listen to those most impacted
  - o Continue to follow-up with project implementation
  - o Prioritize affordability of housing as project evolves
  - o Alleviate the burden of housing instability faced by those in Cincinnati

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References

- https://otrch.org/about/history-mission/
- https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/341c80f53c764e0abd4199aeeb18b2de/page/Home/
- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jLbuh9QMe2LoHsz62JwdA-uRnDGaU1GC/view