

Healthy Housing => Health in All Places

Bringing a health equity lens to the preservation of affordable housing
in Fairfax County

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What we will discuss today

What does healthy housing mean –
how does housing affect health?

How should we consider health in
preservation strategies?

*Good quality, affordable housing with
access to services is the most cost-
effective way to promote long term
health and family stability.*



Health as a reason to propel housing reform is not new



Jacob A. Riis, Museum of the City of New York



Healthy housing defined

Healthy housing is shelter that supports a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. Healthy housing provides a feeling of home, including a sense of belonging, security and privacy.

WHO Healthy Housing Guidelines

"Healthy Homes" is a century-old concept that promotes safe, decent, and sanitary housing as a means for preventing disease and injury.

Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, HUD

Key concept 1: Direct health impacts

1. Leaks and light
2. Air quality and noise
3. Safety and accessibility

Health impacts

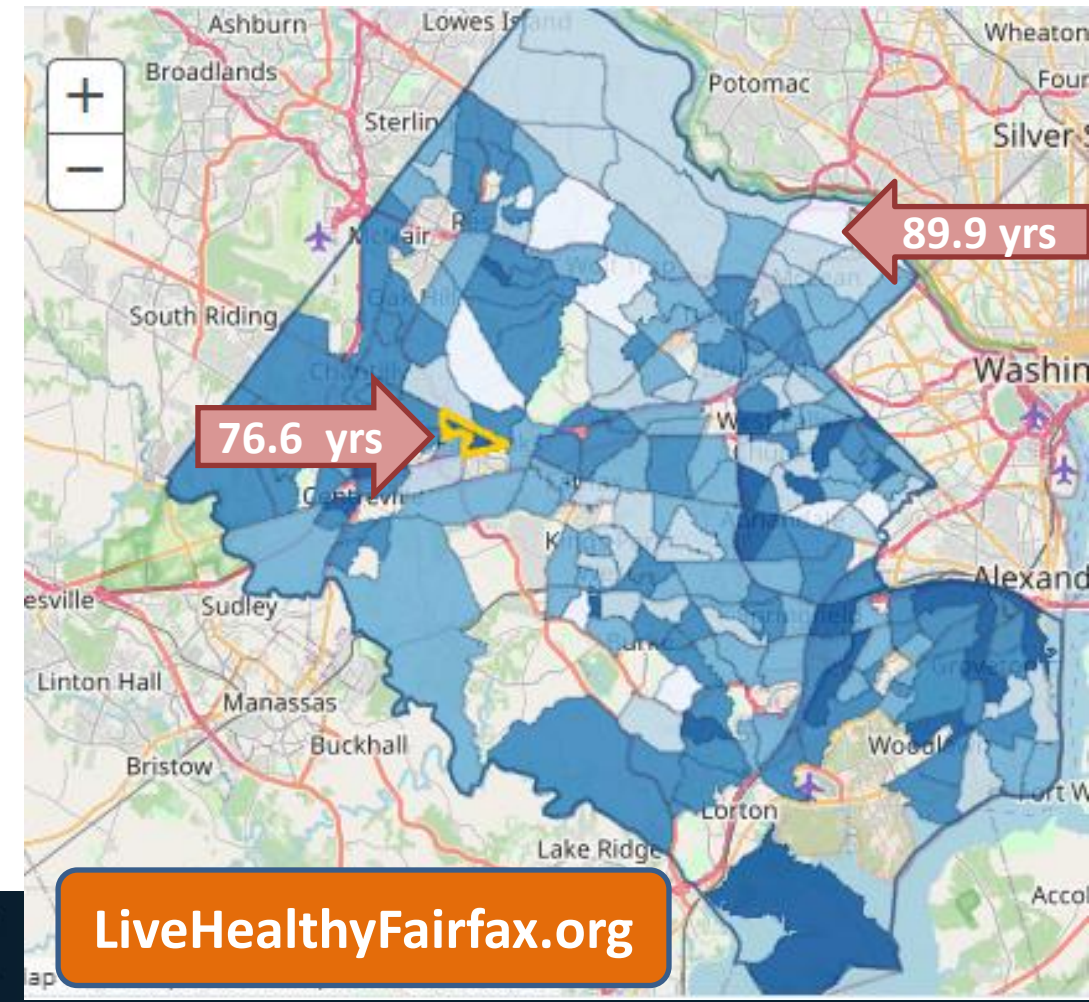
- Respiratory diseases
- Mental health & learning
- Injuries & limited mobility in the home



Key concept 2: Indirect health impacts

Housing cost and location often determine financial and physical access to other health-promoting resources.

Key health outcomes vary across the county.




We have an opportunity to promote health and equity across Fairfax County



Integrating health and equity into our preservation strategies will **IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH**, which we know leads to **GREATER PROSPERITY**.



Consideration 1: Definitions and values

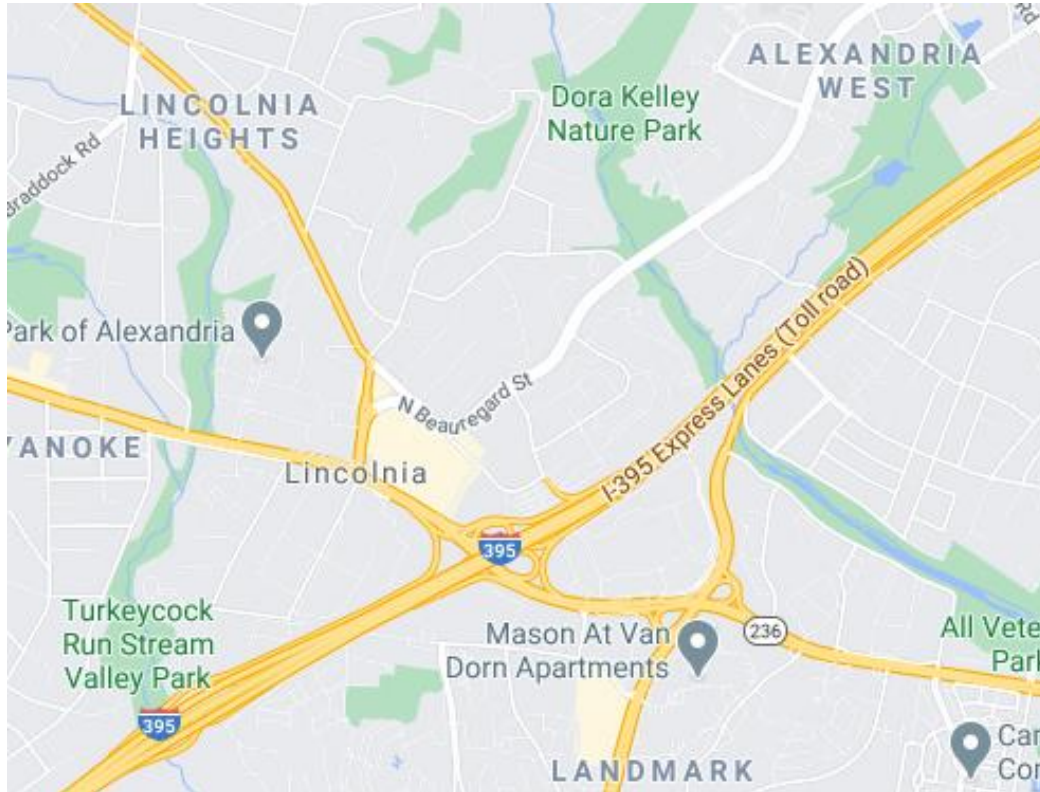
The background image shows a large group of people in a community meeting. They are seated at long tables, some facing forward and others in small groups. The room has a high ceiling and large windows. The text is overlaid on this image.

Quality of Life: Good health is the foundation for a high quality of life and safe, secure, and affordable housing is a critical factor for physical, mental, and social health.

Measurement: Health outcomes should be considered one of the key metrics for measuring success in preserving and promoting affordable housing.

Methods: Centering racial and social equity and community engagement is vital to the development of strategies that preserve homes that are both healthy and affordable.

Consideration 2: Livability at the micro and the macro scale



Interior:

- Amend building code to require the entire unit is accessible, and institute proactive code enforcement for rental homes.
- Consider energy upgrades to improve air quality and reduce operating costs.

Location:

- Determine if targeted homes present any health hazards due to location (e.g. near highway) to inform the strategy for preserving that unit.
- Ascertain access to health-promoting services (e.g. grocery, recreation) to increase residents' opportunity for health.

Consideration 3: Work with non-traditional partners for community support

Seek alignment with:

- Disability and aging organizations
- Environmental groups
- Early childhood and education advocates
- Health foundations

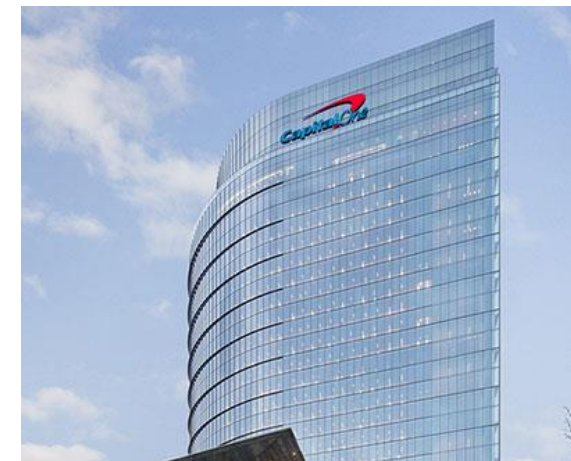


Consideration 4: Work with non-traditional partnerships for financial support



Anchor Institutions

- Health and healthcare systems
- Universities
- Large employers



Ideas for Discussion

As we identify the **characteristics of our approach** to preservation, what health factors are most important for our residents?

What other **services and resources** can we provide to truly promote communities of opportunity?

In what ways can we center our **measures of success** around inclusion, equity, and health – rather than simply counting units?

What **partners** can help us achieve our goals?



Thank you!

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