



Increasing access to affordable, safe and decent housing for Midlands residents makes our communities more livable and thriving. Stable homes help individuals and families gain access to other services, including education and health. While affordable housing access is a complex issue, each individual in the community can lend their voice to help make our communities stronger.

### PREPARING FOR THE CONVERSATION:

You may wish to watch the panel discussion with local community leaders on Affordable Housing and encourage your participants to do so too. It can be found here <https://www.onthetablecola.org/attend/events/table-talk-affordable-housing-in-the-midlands/>.

For an overview of current South Carolina housing needs, review this assessment by SC Housing: [https://issuu.com/schousing/docs/sc\\_needs\\_assessment\\_reportfinal?fr=sOTJhODMzMtIwOTk](https://issuu.com/schousing/docs/sc_needs_assessment_reportfinal?fr=sOTJhODMzMtIwOTk).

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

#### Set some guidelines.

Ask every participant to commit to creating a brave space for this conversation to take place. Four things to remember:

- Be respectful – in our language and conversation, we should be respectful to others even if we do not agree.
- Listen and learn from one another.
- Try to keep an open mind.
- The conversation itself matters – we don't have to solve challenges right now, today.

### HAVING THE CONVERSATION:

**Pose questions to spark discussion.** Pose questions to spark discussion. Invite your participants to consider the following and share their responses, experiences and ideas. Remember, you do not need to ask all of these questions. We recommend selecting 3-5 key questions and letting the conversation flow.

1. What brings you to the table?
2. In what ways have you experienced or witnessed the impact of housing access in our community - institutional, structural, individual or otherwise?
3. What would you like to see happen in your community and/or the Midlands to make housing more accessible?
4. What opportunities and/or resources exist in the Midlands to increase housing access and affordability? What resources do you believe are needed?
5. Who not at this table is critical to making positive changes within our community? How can we connect with them to create change?

6. What will you commit to do in the next 3-6 months to help address housing needs in your community or in the Midlands??

### AFTER YOUR CONVERSATION:

#### Wrapping up your event.

Thank your participants for sharing their thoughts and experiences, and for being part of this important conversation. When we listen and learn from one another, powerful things can happen.

Encourage guests to:

- Contribute to the conversation online by posting photos, ideas and experiences on social media using #OnTheTableCola.
- Attend upcoming Table Talks or check out past ones.
- Consider applying for a Beyond the Table mini-grant in October 2021. Central Carolina Community Foundation is awarding grants up to \$2,000 each for ideas that emerged from conversations. Visit [www.OnTheTableCola.org](http://www.OnTheTableCola.org) to learn more.