

Answering the Call

Creating Solutions for Homelessness



Getting started



Street homelessness/shelter

- Relief/Charity
- Relief
 - Live outside as safely and comfortably as possible
 - Get inside some of the time
 - Meet basic needs



Housing/Stability

- Development/Justice
 - Development of a just community
 - Name oppressive community behavior
 - Change prohibitive policy
 - Create true affordability

Session 4: Innovative housing solutions



What is affordable housing (Activity)



In this session:



We will hear
from Matt about
his experience
getting into
housing



We will learn
about the crisis
of affordability



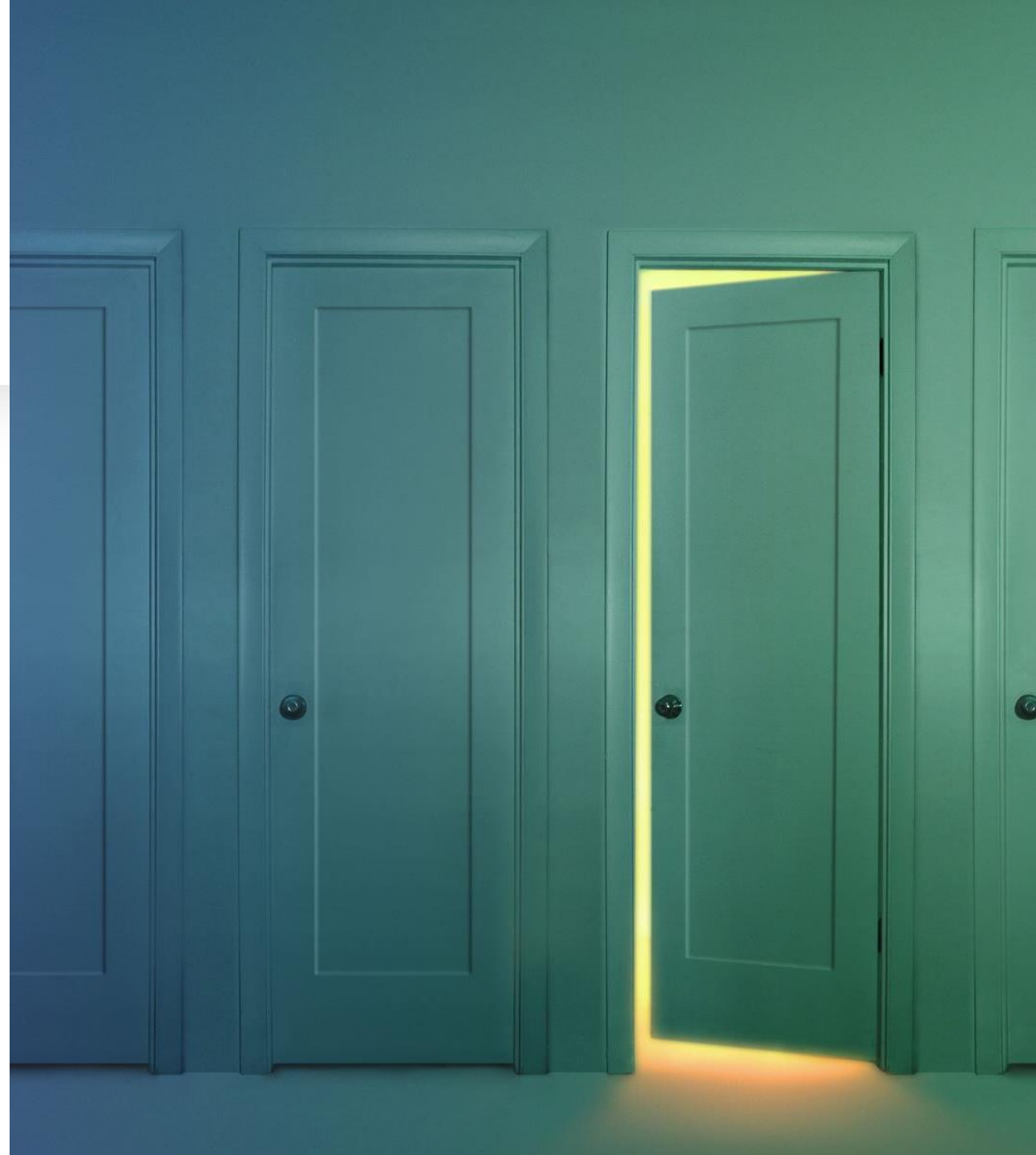
We will see
innovative ways
that churches
are meeting the
housing needs
in their
community

The image shows the interior of a tent. On the left, there is a bed with a white sheet and two tan pillows. A blue wooden nightstand is next to the bed. In the foreground, a blue and white patterned rug is partially visible. The background shows various items stored in the tent, including boxes, a small table with a lamp, and other personal belongings. The text "Interview with Matt Part 2: Finding Housing" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Interview with Matt Part 2: Finding Housing

Reflection: breakout rooms

- What struck you about the challenges that Matt faced in securing housing?
- What help turned out to be critical for him?



FOR
RENT

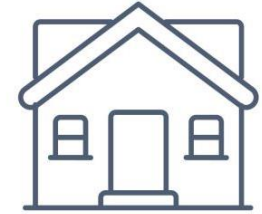
2BD/1BTH (5⁰⁴)
908-3874
Section 8 / FEMA only

The housing gap

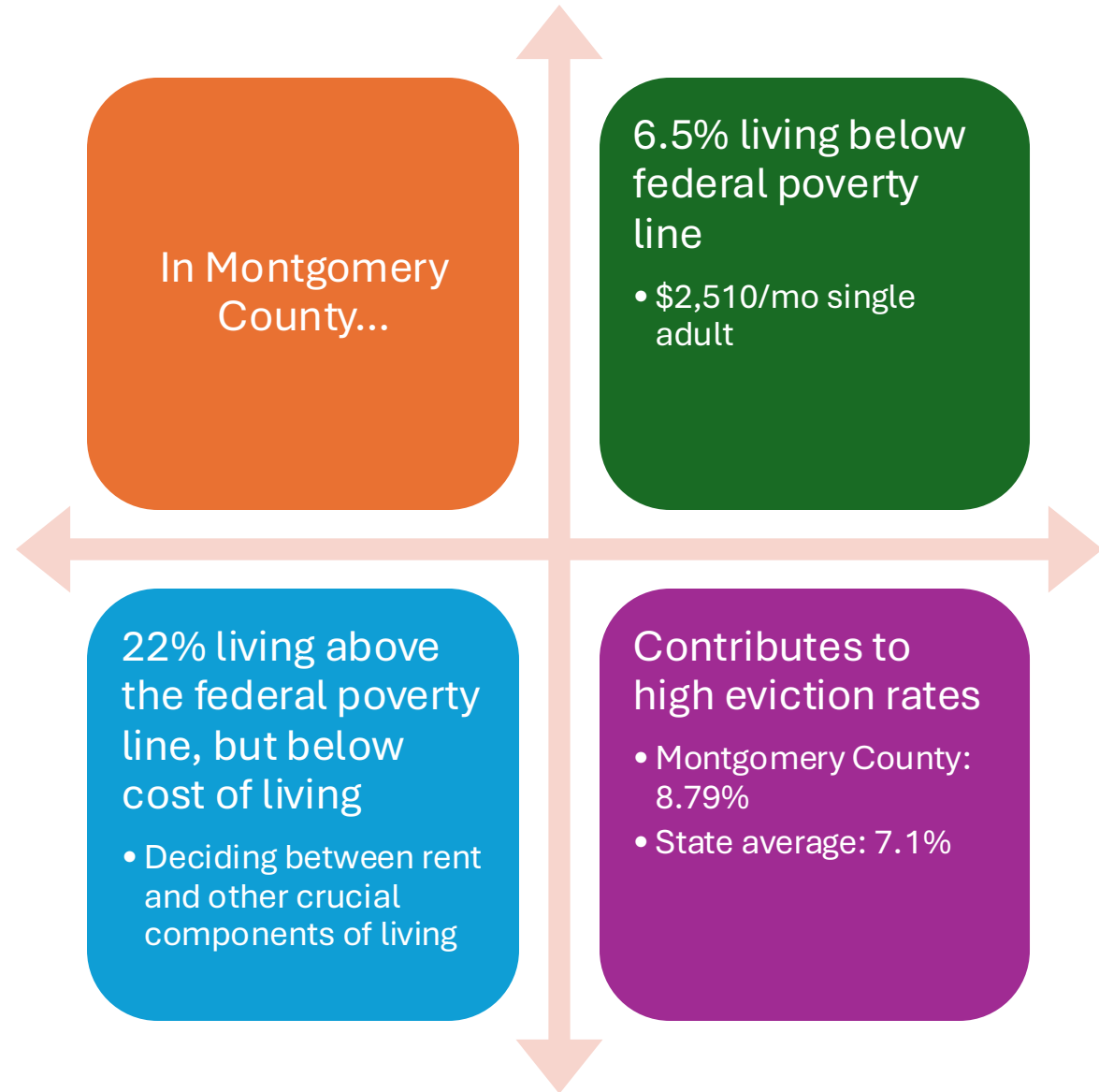
Understanding affordability

Current Housing Assistance

- **Rapid Rehousing**
 - Serves: Category 1 homeless
- **Community Based Care Management**
 - Serves: Category 2 homeless, individuals with Medical Assistance
- **Permanent Supportive Housing**
 - Serves: Chronically homeless individuals
- **Section 8 Voucher (Housing Choice Voucher Program)**
 - Serves: low-income individuals and families (below the federal poverty line)
 - Voucher is lifetime as long as qualifying
 - Waitlist is up to 10 years



Rent Rises.
Income
doesn't.



The Numbers at Access Services

- Currently serving 42 households (with more to come!)
 - SSI: \$967 monthly – 12 individuals
 - SSDI: \$1100-\$1500 monthly – 6 individuals
 - Working: amount varies – 7 individuals
 - No Income: 17 individuals

Fair Market Rent

What is Fair Market Rent (FMR)?

- Rent guidelines decided by the Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Determined by zip code

Examples of 1-bedroom FMR for FY26:

- Norristown 19401 - \$1590
- Lansdale 19446 - \$1820
- Pottstown 19464 - \$1350
- Blue Bell 19422 - \$2,220

SSI, SSDI, and employment may not be enough

Other Barriers to Housing

Rental applications

- Credit Requirements
- Income Requirements
- Criminal Background

Lack of public transportation

- Limits neighborhood choice
- Limits job opportunities

Stigma

- Mental health
- Homelessness
- low/no income

Mission minded opportunities:

- Landlords in your network/congregation
- Does your church have residential rental space
- Move-in Assistance
 - Financial (help with move-in costs)
 - Material (food, furniture, toiletries, etc.)
- Transportation
 - Help someone get to work, doctor appointments, etc.
- Community & Belonging



The Gap is \$500.

- Redefining Affordability





Moving to action (Discover, Decide, Do)

- Find out
 - What is the housing situation in your town?
 - The eviction rate?
 - Where do people with low incomes live? What do they pay? What kind of housing is it?
- Advocate for inclusionary zoning;
 - rehab houses into multiple apartments
 - Alternate Dwelling units (ADU's)
- Consider your resources and how you might innovate and collaborate
- Connect and Convene

Hallmarks of Community success



Innovative: doing things that have not been done, doing new things in different ways



Collaborative: Working with people you've not worked with before, or working with them differently



Decisional will: Deciding as a group that a thing needs to happen

Resources

- Sympara
 - <https://www.sympara.org/home>
- Royersford Baptist
 - <https://www.cypressplacepa.org/hom>
- Tiny homes
 - <https://www.christianitytoday.com/2024/08/church-homeless-tiny-homes-settled-ministry-unhoused/>
- Rehabbing houses
 - <https://www.wlbt.com/2022/11/10/church-program-helps-homeless-family-go-living-woods-renovated-home/>

A hand is holding a large, light-brown wooden letter 'C' on a wooden surface. A white, torn-edge rectangular overlay is positioned in the center of the image, containing text.

How Can You Reach Us?

AnsweringTheCall@AccessServices.org

What Did You
Think?



...vering the Call Event Survey

