

## ACTION GUIDE

# Preventing Human Trafficking Through Housing Stability in Louisville

As part of our fight to reduce sex trafficking in 25 U.S. cities, Polaris is prioritizing the prevention of trafficking by expanding social safety nets for vulnerable populations. This quick Action Guide is designed to help Louisville locals prevent human trafficking in their community by reducing housing instability for vulnerable youth and migrant communities, both of whom are experience more vulnerabilities to human trafficking. It was created with the support and expertise of La Casita Center, a local organization working to enhance the well-being of Louisville's Latinx community.

These are the **top three actions** that can be taken to reduce vulnerability to trafficking in youth and migrant communities in Louisville. These actions will not end trafficking in these communities completely, but they are achievable first steps that will have a fast impact.



### IMPROVE ACCESS TO SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES.

Vulnerable youth, including immigrant youth, face significant barriers to achieving stable housing. This could be because they are recently out of the foster or criminal justice system, do not speak English, lack a strong familial or social network, or discrimination by landlords. To reduce their vulnerability, access to strong community services such as housing placement assistance, financial education, and employment assistance is needed.



### IMPROVE SUPPLY, ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF CURRENT HOUSING.

There is not enough emergency or affordable housing to serve the community. In addition to creating new housing, relaxed leasing requirements, such as only having to prove income and not immigration status or credit score, can help vulnerable youth achieve housing stability. For youth coming out of the foster care or juvenile justice system, improved access to and quality of follow-on services that provide employment coaching and housing guidance are also important to gaining stability.



### PASS STRONGER LEGISLATION THAT PROTECTS FAMILIES AND YOUTH.

Stronger legislation such as anti-discrimination policies, eviction moratoriums, rent control and just cause eviction policies will help families and youth achieve housing instability. Housing and leasing laws can be improved to prioritize the health and safety of children and families, not landlords.

## SNAPSHOT

# Housing Instability in Louisville

**39,000 households**



in Louisville live below 30% of the Average Median Income. Over half of them lack affordable housing.

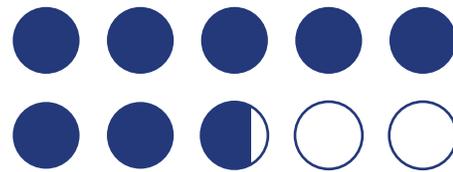


*Average Median Income*

**Nearly 78%**



of people seeking housing support in Louisville are Black mothers



### Vulnerabilities to Housing Instability

- Poverty/economic instability
- Lack of temporary or emergency housing
- Discrimination (Sex and Race)
- Lack of follow-on services for foster children or juvenile justice youth
- Language barriers
- Immigration Status
- Lack of Social Networks



### Impacts of Housing Instability

- Risk to human trafficking
- Loss of education opportunities
- Poor physical and mental health
- Substance abuse
- Perpetual poverty