



NON-PROFIT HOUSING ASSOCIATION  
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Residents: Share Your Story

## Developing Your Story

Imagine you have an opportunity to meet with a policy or decision maker on affordable housing. You want them to *imagine your story every time they have to vote to support or oppose affordable housing*.

Elected leaders, community leaders, neighborhood groups, and others will remember a short, strong, and meaningful story about how an affordable home has changed someone's life.

NPH wants to help get your story in front of lawmakers, even if you can't meet with them in person. We can explore ways to deliver your story – through conversations with reporters, online, and more – so that elected leaders understand the real impacts of their votes on affordable housing.

Please take this opportunity to share your story and how your life was changed as a result of having an affordable home.

## Some questions to consider when developing your story:

1. How has living in an affordable home improved your life?
2. Do you have more peace of mind? Do you feel safer and more secure? Does your life feel more stable?
3. Do you feel like you are a part of your community?
4. How can living in an affordable home inspire your future? Did it increase your hope for the future?

## Speaker Template – Assume that you will only have 3 minutes to speak

- I. **Introduce yourself** with your name, the organization you are a part of and where you live.

“Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, from [your organization, location]. I am a resident of \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable: I am an affordable housing resident in \_\_\_\_\_).”

- II. **Share 1 or 2 sentences that capture how affordable housing has positively changed your life** or how it has contributed to you feeling empowered, safer, created a sense of community. You can use the brainstorming questions above or prompts below:

“Since living in an affordable home, I am able to \_\_\_\_\_.”

“Now that I live in an affordable home, I feel \_\_\_\_\_.”

“I feel fortunate to have an affordable home because \_\_\_\_\_.”

“Without a stable, safe and affordable place to live, I feel \_\_\_\_\_.”

- III. **Connect with the listener's values.**

“Like you, I believe \_\_\_\_\_.”

“We all agree that \_\_\_\_\_.”

- IV. **Stating your reason(s) for speaking.**

“Again, I just want to say that \_\_\_\_\_.”

“I'm sharing my story today because I believe \_\_\_\_\_.”

- V. **Thank people for listening to your story.**

With great thanks, these materials are loosely adapted from



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**Put together your personal story.** Now, use the back of this sheet to compile all the section from above into one message.

Write your story by following steps I – V of the “Speaker Template” brainstorm portion on the front side of this page. Remember: Short and strong stories often leave the greatest impression. What is the main thing you want decision makers to remember about your story?

<p><b>Introduction:</b> <i>Your name, organization, and where you live</i></p>	
<p><b>Your story:</b> <i>How has affordable housing impacted you or changed your life?</i></p>	
<p><b>Connection:</b> <i>Share how you see affordable housing as part of our society's shared values</i></p>	
<p><b>Purpose:</b> <i>State your reason for sharing your story</i></p>	
<p><b>Conclusion/Thanks</b></p>	