

# Pushing the Re-Set Button: Taking the Stigma Off Housing Options

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## Abstract

Affordable senior housing has come a long way, offering amenities, security and aesthetics that compare to market-rate housing. While programs to keep older adults in their original homes are important, we also need to educate and inform them about their options for not staying in their homes. For many, an independent senior apartment is the start of a new, meaningful life. Those who work with older adults can help them by educating themselves about the wide range of housing options.

## Data

- Older women are more likely than older men to live alone. Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 Demographic Profile Data, U.S. Census Bureau: [factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov)
- In AARP's Livability for All in the City of Seattle survey, only one-third of Seattle residents age 45+ responded positively about having sufficient affordable housing options for older adults. A similar percentage feel their community has well-maintained, safe low-income housing. [bit.ly/1YIV86L](http://bit.ly/1YIV86L)
- AARP's Livability Index rates Seattle's housing affordability in the bottom one-third of neighborhoods across the country. [bit.ly/2glazXt](http://bit.ly/2glazXt)
- Self-sufficiency is difficult for Seattle residents age 65+ to achieve due to high housing costs. The Elder Economic Security Standard Index for Seattle city, 2010: [bit.ly/2zSiD01](http://bit.ly/2zSiD01)
- The current supply of public housing remains a critical safety net for low-income people, including older adult, in Seattle and King County. Quiet Crisis: Age Wave Maxes Out Affordable Housing, King County 2008–2025: [bit.ly/2fIHA8t](http://bit.ly/2fIHA8t)

## City Role

The City of Seattle's Office of Housing manages public investments from the Seattle Housing Levy and incentive programs that fund the preservation and production of affordable apartments and homes in Seattle. The Office also provides free or low-cost home repair and weatherization programs for lower-income residents, helping them remain in their homes; emergency rental assistance to prevent homelessness; and online resources that make the search for affordable housing options easier.

## Recommended Pre-reading

- Apartment Finder: [www.apartmentguide.com/Apartments/Rent](http://www.apartmentguide.com/Apartments/Rent)
- Dedicated Care Solutions: [www.DedicatedCareSolutions.com](http://www.DedicatedCareSolutions.com)
- Family Resource Home Care: [www.familyresourcehomecare.com](http://www.familyresourcehomecare.com)

- Home Instead: [www.homeinstead.com](http://www.homeinstead.com)
- King County Housing Authority: [www.kcha.org](http://www.kcha.org)
- Mercy Housing: [www.mercyhousing.org/Washington](http://www.mercyhousing.org/Washington)
- Retirement Connections: [www.RetirementConnection.com](http://www.RetirementConnection.com)
- Seattle Housing Authority: [www.seattlehousing.org](http://www.seattlehousing.org)
- Senior Housing Assistance Group: [www.housing4seniors.com](http://www.housing4seniors.com)

### **Presenter**



Sharonn Meeks  
Washington State Housing Finance Commission  
Phone: 206-287-4404  
E-mail: [Sharonn.Meeks@wshfc.org](mailto:Sharonn.Meeks@wshfc.org)  
Web: [www.wshfc.org](http://www.wshfc.org)