



Community Conversations: Result Summary

From April - June 2024, Alexandria Health Department co-hosted nine “Community Conversations” with residents and property managers in Alexandria as part of the City’s [Healthy Homes Action Plan](#) work.

Conversations were held in English, Spanish, Dari, or Amharic at locations around the city. A special thanks to the community partners that made these meetings possible:

Casa Chirilagua

African Communities Together

Southern Towers

Senior Services of Alexandria

Resettling Afghan Families Together

Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities

Department of Community & Human Services

Alexandria Commission for Persons with Disabilities

American Lung Association

The Community Conversations offered a better understanding of how residents are experiencing top home condition issues and an opportunity to brainstorm solutions for tenants, homeowners, and property managers. Top home condition issues included pests, smoke, mold, crowding, and clutter. Residents shared their experiences and some experiences they’ve heard from others using a journey map. AHD grouped similar responses together, summarized below.

Next, Alexandria’s Healthy Homes Network will be prioritizing and refining these strategies into the next Healthy Homes Action Plan. Want to help build these solutions and weigh in on how they’re going? Join our [email list](#).

Strategies to address Mold	
Increase use of current complaint systems used to report mold	Increase the number of educations programs and resources on mold
Pass policy to increase tenant support when dealing with mold	Identify legal and advocacy resources to support residents experiencing mold

Strategies to address Clutter	
Develop a mental health centered approach to dealing with clutter	Provide education on clutter
Increase public awareness of strategies on how to declutter and provide resources	Identify individuals able to help with clutter
Organize community events and opportunities to declutter	Increase funding for resources to address clutter

Strategies to address Pests	
Advocate for City-wide pest control measures that incorporate resident voice	Develop pest prevention and control best practices and share with residents
Share information on how to deal with different types of pests	Identify properties managing pests well

Strategies to address Crowding	
Increase educational opportunities to increase income	Create outdoor spaces as an outlet to crowded homes
Develop best practices to reduce issues found in crowded households	Increase access to job opportunities to raise household income
Advocate for higher wages and increased support programs	Increase use of financial planning strategies
Relocate to a larger space	Identify barriers to using available benefits and resources
Increase funding to create deeply committed affordable housing units	Advocate for an adjusted affordable housing policy

Strategies to address Smoke	
Educate residents on how to personally improve air quality	Develop resources on how to speak with neighbors about the issue
Educate residents on impacts of smoking	Simplify complaint reporting process to property management
Develop non-smoking signage and infrastructure	Streamline lease language and building smoke policies
Assist management in creating and enforcing anti-smoking measures	Find support from health care providers
Identify smokefree properties to move to	

For a full list of feedback, email healthmatters@vdh.virginia.gov