

# Goal 8: Health and Housing

## ENHANCE housing quality, safety, and livability to support resident health, security, and wellbeing.

### Recommendation #1

Support initiatives and programs that enhance housing quality and habitability standards.

- **Strategy:** Continue collaboration with the Health Department in implementing the Healthy Homes Action Plan to address issues such as hoarding, mold, smoke, and pests.
- **Strategy:** Refine and continue providing Fair Housing support, testing, and reasonable accommodation assistance (e.g. emotional support and service animals).
- **Strategy:** Continue proactive rental inspection programs.
 

*Did you know? The City has adopted a rental inspection ordinance to ensure compliance with the building code and to promote safe, decent, and sanitary housing as outlined in the Code of Virginia. The program is crucial for preventing property deterioration and unsafe living conditions and ensuring safe, habitable environments. Code Administration, the Health Department, and the Office of Housing work closely to promote safe and livable homes.*
- **Strategy:** Recognize responsible landlords who maintain quality housing and fair practices.
- **Strategy:** Establish a data-driven housing quality monitoring system.
  - Leverage Alex311 data for strategic decision making.
  - Track and publicly report property-level data on Code violations, eviction filings, and tenant complaints to promote transparency and landlord accountability. Expand interdepartmental collaboration focused on enhancing landlord accountability.
- **Strategy:** Enhance landlord support and financial assistance programs.
  - Provide technical assistance and identify state and other funding sources to support small landlords making necessary repairs.
  - Foster relationships among small landlords to promote opportunities for collaboration and cost sharing related to management, operations and maintenance functions.
- **Strategy:** Support legislation that ensures safe, decent, and well-maintained housing, including:
  - Stronger habitability standards and enforcement authority
  - Tenant remedies for substandard conditions
  - Expanded proactive inspection

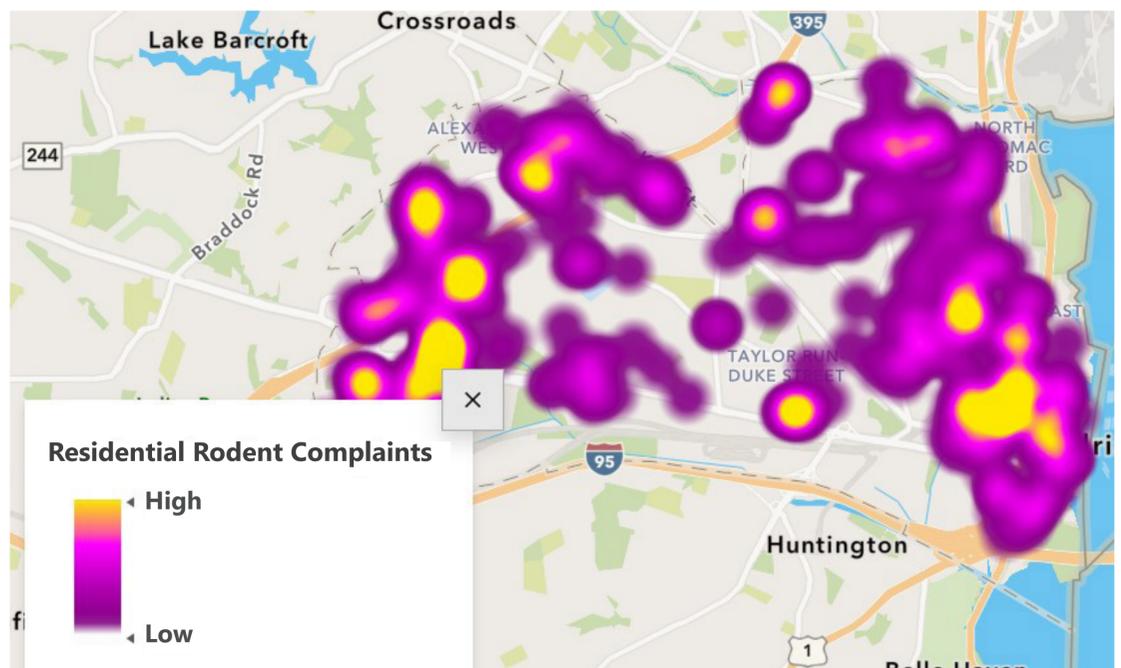
Also see Goal 7 strategies related to accessibility and Goal 10 strategies related to energy efficiency and occupany comfort.

**Take a sticky note and share your feedback below!**

A healthy home is dry, ventilated, clean, safe, warm or cool enough, well-maintained, and accessible. **Alexandria's Healthy Homes Network**—a coalition of city agencies, nonprofits, advocacy groups, residents, and property managers—was formed because too many residents are experiencing unhealthy housing.

The **2025 Healthy Homes Action Plan** is a collection of strategies created by residents to address these ongoing issues. That includes using Alex311 data to track hotspots like rodent or no air/ no heat complaints, working with residents to build new guides on how to deal with mold, and creating mental health solutions for hoarding challenges.

Become involved! Please contact [healthmatters@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:healthmatters@vdh.virginia.gov)



Heatmap of complaints about rodents in residential buildings reported to Alex311 between March 2020 - February 2024 (City of Alexandria)

**Did You Know?** The City of Alexandria's Office of Housing administers the Home Rehabilitation Loan Program which provides no-interest, deferred payment loans to help low- and moderate-income City residents remain in their homes. Funding supports health and safety, accessibility, and energy efficiency improvements to existing homes. To learn more, visit [alexandriava.gov/housing](http://alexandriava.gov/housing)

**Did You Know?** The Health Department's ALX Breathes program, a part of the Healthy Homes Initiative, helps low- to moderate-income Alexandria residents with asthma and COPD, breathe more easily at home. To learn more, visit [alexandriava.gov/ALXBreathes](http://alexandriava.gov/ALXBreathes)