Community Development Alliance 2025 Annual Conference "Protecting Aging Neighbors from Displacement"

CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

Milwaukee residents have elevated displacement as posing a risk to the quality of life of past, present and future generations in vulnerable Milwaukee neighborhoods. If our city's aging neighbors cannot afford their homes, they will be displaced from their neighborhoods. This leaves aging neighbors without stable housing, and neighborhoods lose quality inventory for future generations when investors buy those homes. Communities across the country have helped solve this problem by providing for a lower property tax rate for aging neighbors. For too long in Wisconsin we have been intimidated by our state's Uniformity Clause, but other states have successfully amended their Uniformity Clauses to protect aging neighbors. Join us in learning from allies in other states and help set a path forward to protect aging neighbors in Milwaukee.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

Residents, Neighborhood Organizations, Advocacy Organizations, Implementors, Philanthropy, Investors, and other allies from the public and private sector, are invited to:

- Understand the extent of displacement of aging neighbors, how Wisconsin property taxes operate, and what other states have done to resolve. Over the last three years, CDA has collaborated with hundreds of residents, and a primary concern continues to be displacement, particularly for aging neighbors. There is confusion on how tax assessments work, and a desire for policy solutions to solve the problem. CDA, and its network of allies, have researched data and strategies from across the country that address displacement for aging neighbors. This information will be shared at the conference.
- Provide direction on future Policy Changes. A potential policy proposal designed in partnership with allies will be presented for discussion and direction by attendees through several interactive sessions.
- Build Momentum for Change in Milwaukee. This conference is not just for informational purposes. It is a call for action. Participants will guide future policy work that they are excited about and willing to lend their time, energy and resources to make a reality for aging neighbors in Milwaukee.