



Challenge:

COVID-19 is unlike any disaster that our towns & cities, regions, State & country have seen in recent years. Similar to the concept of “we are in this together, alone” to help flatten the curve & minimize the infection & death rates, our recovery should be promoted as “to build back better, we are in this together as one”. It will take an equal & coordinated effort by government, faith-based & non-governmental agencies, to succeed in the community’s recovery.

There are effects of COVID-19 & the recent wide-spread civic unrest is symptomatic of, and provoked by, the increasingly evident & racially-based systemic inequalities in American society. These inequalities permeate every aspect of housing policy & the real estate market, including both property sale & rental markets. This is exacerbated by substandard housing & resilience insecurities typically experienced by people & neighborhoods of color. What can we as members of the VOAD movement do in order to change the course of these housing inequities? The goal should be to create safe, sanitary & secure places to live that not just promotes but embodies social & economic sustainability, resilience & equality.

Answer:

The Elevated Studio has been a lead organization in multiple regions across our country. We have been working with nonprofits in the housing and sheltering sectors, identifying and communicating publicly where the gaps exist; collaborating with partners in creating supportive programs; coordinating advocacy efforts; and cooperating with our VOAD partners towards this revitalized society.

We have identified three primary groups who are being negatively impacted by COVID-19.

Those that are experiencing homelessness

Tenants and Landlords

Those that are home owners

Each has their own distinct issues, gaps and potential solutions.

We are leading the way with the various working groups to provide location-specific solutions for each demographic.