



# Sample: Press Release

*This sample press release for cityLAB at UCLA applies a California Dream narrative lens to a previous press release. See also a [template for writing press releases](#).*

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## For Immediate Release

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## New Report Outlines Housing Solutions for California Teachers and School Staff

Only one in five homes available for purchase in California is affordable on a teacher's salary, but public land in every county is available to build housing for these education employees, according to a new report released today by cityLAB at the University of California, Los Angeles and partner organizations. That number draws from 2016 data and is likely even lower as housing costs have continued to soar.

The accompanying handbook, "Education Workforce Housing in California: Developing the 21st Century Campus," provides a comprehensive plan for land owned by school districts to be designed and developed for teachers and other school employees.

**Everyone in our state has the right to a home**, especially the public school employees who serve students across the state. Teacher salaries in California have been unable to keep up with the rising costs of housing. This means that teachers and other school staff struggle to live in the communities where they work, with some even sleeping in their cars near the school.

*"Making sure that teachers can be part of the communities where they teach is good for students and good for our vibrant and diverse communities. This report makes the case*

*for education workforce housing as one important way to address our state's housing crisis," said Dana Cuff, Director of cityLAB. "Improving access to safe, affordable housing is an essential key to building inclusive communities across California that reflect the diversity of our state."*

**Findings in the report include:**

- Every county in California has public land that may be ideal to build housing for teachers and school staff, with nearly 151,500 acres of land owned by California Local Education Agencies.
- Of this land, 75,000 acres of property statewide are potentially available for development of housing.
- More than half (61%) of this land is located in areas where entry-level teachers face housing affordability challenges.
- While state law allows school districts in California to pursue affordable housing for employees, the current process for building housing on school lands remains overly-burdensome, which limits districts' ability to develop land for employee housing.

School districts face a growing challenge in recruiting and retaining staff. Staff turnover at public schools continues to increase when teachers cannot afford to live within a reasonable distance of the school where they teach. California's deepening housing crisis threatens the quality of K-12 education, leading to worsening outcomes for students, high rates of teacher turnover, and acute staffing shortages.

Public school employees—especially teachers—struggle to live in the communities where they work, and school districts face growing challenges in recruiting and retaining staff, creating instability that exacerbates opportunity and achievement gaps. When districts are unable to retain staff due to housing issues, ultimately opportunities for achievement are impacted and students suffer.

*"Here at cityLAB we dream big — because in California we have to. All of our work is based, fundamentally, in partnership with communities and residents because they know what it will take to be able to afford to live where they work. Our dreams are based in achievable reality, especially when it comes to affordability," said Cuff.*

The report and handbook were released by cityLAB at the University of California, Los Angeles, the Center for Cities + Schools at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Turner Center for Housing Innovation at the University of California, Berkeley.

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**About cityLAB at UCLA:** *cityLAB, founded in 2006, is a multidisciplinary center in UCLA's Architecture and Urban Design Department focused on leveraging design for spatial justice and to address contemporary urban concerns. Specifically, cityLAB explores the challenges facing the 21st century metropolis, expanding the possibilities for our cities to grow more equitably, livably, sustainably, and beautifully, with affordable housing at the center of its efforts. For more information visit: <https://cityLAB.UCLA.edu/>*

