



**Greenville
Homeless
Alliance**

ADVOCACY
AGENDA

2024

The Greenville Homeless Alliance Advocacy Agenda is developed under the guidelines set in our [Values](#) and [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) statements and our mission - to strengthen partnerships and broaden support to increase options for individuals or families experiencing homelessness in Greenville County.

Greenville Homeless Alliance Primary Advocacy Goals

INCREASE EXITS FROM HOMELESSNESS

**REDUCE BARRIERS TO EXITING
HOMELESSNESS**

**STRENGTHEN COORDINATED
COMMUNITY RESPONSE**

SUPPORT PUBLIC TRANSIT

NOTE: The Greenville Homeless Alliance is a collaboration of numerous stakeholders with varying goals, activities, and values that collectively aim to make Greenville County a better community. Advocacy communications represent the collective goals and objectives of the stakeholders but may not represent those of individual organizations.

MONITOR:

Issues that may move into legislation and have the potential to impact homelessness.

- U.S. Supreme Court case of *City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Gloria Johnson* to determine whether, under our Constitution, a local government can make it a crime to involuntarily live outside and unsheltered, when adequate shelter is not available. The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) has [issued a statement](#) that the Court **should not allow** such a policy. (To learn more: [Supreme Court and Homelessness: What the Grants Pass v. Johnson Case Could Do - NAEH](#) and [Policy Brief: Policing And The Punitive Politics Of Local Homelessness Policy – Community Solutions](#))
- Proposed new housing developments that are affordable, accept Housing Choice Vouchers, or have a portion of housing that falls within 30% or below the area median income.
- Anti-camping and panhandling policies within Greenville County and its municipalities.
- Issues related to zoning and codes that impact partners involved with GHA.

SUPPORT:

Systemic issues affecting homelessness with advocates in other corners. GHA supports other organizations in advocating through these legislative measures.

- **Senate Bill 0910 - Predatory Trade Practice Act** - by [Davis](#), [Shealy](#), [Gambrell](#), [Hutto](#), and [Johnson](#) - A bill to prohibit and define certain predatory loan practices as unlawful, to provide that banks and credit unions are exempt, to provide that the attorney general shall enforce violations of this code section, and to provide that individuals aggrieved by actions prohibited by this code section may pursue all remedies available under the laws of this state. (1/9/24 referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry) Footnote – Rep. Shane Massey saw the bill as government overreach and voted against moving it to the full Senate. It will be reintroduced in the next session.
- **House Bill 3844 – Eviction Right to Counsel Program** - by [Pendarvis](#), [J.Moore](#), [Howard](#), [Gilliard](#), [Wetmore](#), [Jefferson](#), [Bustos](#), [Dillard](#), [W. Jones](#), [Henegan](#), and [Bauer](#) - A bill to create "The Eviction Right To Counsel Program" under the South Carolina Housing Authority and to provide for the administration of the program. (1/31/23 in committee on Judiciary)
- **Senate Bill 0887 – Eviction Right to Counsel** - by [Tedder](#) - A bill to provide that a tenant has the right to counsel in an eviction proceeding between the tenant and a landlord and to authorize the court to appoint counsel to defend a tenant if it determines the tenant is unable to retain adequate legal counsel financially. (1/09/24 in committee on Judiciary)
- **House Bill 4544 - Religious Institutions Affordable Housing Act** - by [W.Jones](#), [Clyburn](#), [Taylor](#), [Haddon](#), [Burns](#), [Chumley](#), [Pendarvis](#), [Dillard](#), [Willis](#), [Jefferson](#), [J.L. Johnson](#), [Wetmore](#) and [Vaughan](#) A bill to provide that a religious organization may build certain affordable housing and maintain its property tax-exempt status. (1/9/24 referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry)
- Funding of Greenlink's Transit Development Plan through 2030 (watch [Why is Greenlink Important to GHA?](#))
- Greenville County [Unified Development Ordinance \(UDO\)](#)

SUPPORT: (cont.)

Systemic issues affecting homelessness with advocates in other corners. GHA supports other organizations in advocating.

- **House Bill 4015 – Rental Housing -**
By [W.Jones](#), [Gilliard](#), [Henegan](#), [Pendarvis](#), [Jefferson](#), [Dillard](#), [Rivers](#), [King](#) and [Cobb-Hunter](#)- A bill to require that certain landlords shall provide certain information to prospective tenants regarding fees and to provide for certain notices after a denial. (3/1/23 referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry)
- **House Bill 4639 – Housing Discrimination -** By [Dillard](#), [Henegan](#) and [Pendarvis](#) -
A bill to provide that an individual may not be discriminated against due to source of income. (1/9/24 referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry) This bill adds the source of income to the housing discrimination list and will prevent landlords from omitting voucher holders.
- **OPPOSE House Bill 3253 – Short Term Rentals** -by [Hewitt](#), Oremus, [Kilmartin](#), [May](#), [Atkinson](#), [Hayes](#), [Connell](#), [Hager](#), [Kirby](#), [Bailey](#), [Schuessler](#), [Haddon](#) and [Robbins](#)
A bill to prohibit a governing body of a municipality, county, or other political subdivision of the state from enacting or enforcing an ordinance, resolution, or regulation that prohibits the rental of a residential dwelling to a short-term guest, to provide penalties, and to define terms. (1/10/24 referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry) This bill takes power away from municipalities to decide where and how Airbnb can operate. The City of Greenville opposes this – GHA believes it is reducing the inventory of affordable rentals.
- [Greenville Affordable Housing Coalition's](#) Advocacy Agenda (GHA is a Greenville Affordable Housing Coalition member.)
- Issues identified by [Impact Greenville](#) which works to connect land use, housing, and transportation for a livable and inclusive county.
- Affordable Housing and Mental Health issues identified by [GOAL Justice](#)
 - Greenville City and County committing \$10MM a year towards affordable housing with one-third of that funding to be designated for low-income households making 30% of the area median income or below.
 - Full funding of 988 mental health crisis lines.
- [United Way of Greenville County's](#) Advocacy Agenda (releasing in Feb 2024)
- [Sisters of Charity Foundation of SC Advocacy Agenda](#) which focuses on inspiring and influencing positive change for those living in poverty in SC.
- Priorities identified by the [Greenville Chamber of Commerce](#) to address transit, affordable housing, accessibility and affordability of childcare, reform of our criminal justice system, and expansion of economic opportunity. (GHA is a member of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

LEAD:

Issues that align with primary advocacy goals with action from stakeholders and an intentional strategy.

- None currently.

PASSED or ADOPTED

- **Senate Bill 0284 - Use of Local Accommodations Tax for Workforce Housing** – by [Davis](#), [Turner](#), [Jackson](#), [Scott](#), [Kimpson](#), [Senn](#), [Campsen](#), and [Sabb](#) - A bill to amend the South Carolina code of laws relating to the use of revenue from local accommodations tax, so as to provide that the development of workforce housing is one of the purposes for which local accommodations taxes may be used. **Monitor - PASSED 2023**
- **Senate Bill 0342 - Homeless Youth Definition** - by [Shealy](#), [Jackson](#), and [Hutto](#) – A bill to redefine the term “homelessness” as it relates to children and youth to more closely align with the definition utilized in the McKinney Vento. **Support - PASSED 2023**
- [American Bar Association](#) endorsed [Homeless Court in the City of Greenville](#). **Lead - ADOPTED 2023**
- **\$5M in Greenville County Budget for Affordable Housing for 2024 and 2025.** **Support – APPROVED 2023**
- **\$2.5M in the City of Greenville, South Carolina Budget Reaffirmed for Affordable Housing for Next 4 Years** - The City of Greenville reaffirmed its commitment of \$2.5 million annually towards affordable housing for the next four years. This commitment gave the Greenville Housing Fund the support to leverage \$33 million toward affordable housing projects. **Support – APPROVED 2023**
- **GVL 2040 Comprehensive Plan** - The City of Greenville passed the GVL2040 Comprehensive Plan which created a new development code. **Support – APPROVED 2023**