



# **SGS Advocacy in Aging Virtual Forum**

***Transforming Housing for Older Adults: Innovation & Advocacy***

**October 15th & 16th  
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET**

Housing availability, affordability, and accessibility are emergent concerns for older adults. Join the Southern Gerontological Society for a two-day forum focusing on housing innovations that support safe and stable housing for all. Attendees will learn about models in permanent and translational housing and the connection between social factors and their impacts.

## **DAY 1: OCTOBER 15, 2024 1:00 - 3:30 PM**

**1:00 PM – 1:15 PM**

**Welcome**

Amanda James  
*SGS Executive Director*

**1:15 PM – 2:15 PM**

**Homelessness and Older Adults: Your Voice Matters**



Yolanda Stevens  
*Program and Policy Analyst  
National Alliance to End Homelessness*

Yolanda Stevens will discuss how the older adult population is evolving in the United States, and how the demographic shift accompanied by lack of investment in resources for social and health supports are driving a surge in older adults being unhoused. Yolanda will discuss how the voices of advocates are critical in achieving systemic change and shifting the tide of growing homelessness in older adults.

**2:15 PM – 2:25 PM**

**Break**

**DAY 1: OCTOBER 15, 2024 CONT.**  
**1:00 - 3:30 PM**

**2:25 PM – 3:25 PM**

**National Housing Trends**



**Samar Jha**  
*Government Affairs Director*  
*Livable Communities, Government Affairs, AARP*

Samar Jha will discuss a myriad of opportunities at regional, state and federal levels of policy to introduce accessible housing solutions for older adults, and how concepts like universal design and transit development support people of all ages and abilities. Samar will review the legislative landscape that impact the housing affordability for older adults and provide action steps for how the public can advocate for a more accessible future.

**3:25 PM – 3:30 PM**

**Closing**

**Annie Rhodes**  
*SGS Advocacy and Public Policy Committee Chair*

**DAY 2: OCTOBER 16, 2024**  
**1:00 - 3:30 PM**

**1:00 PM – 1:10 PM**

**Welcome**

**Annie Rhodes**  
*SGS Advocacy and Public Policy Committee Chair*

**1:10 PM – 1:30 PM**

**HUD Initiatives**



**Todd Richardson**  
*General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development & Research*  
*US Department of Housing and Urban Development*

Todd Richardson, the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development & Research will discuss the actions that HUD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development is taking to create strong, sustainable and inclusive communities for older adults, with an emphasis on affordability and racial equity.

**DAY 2: OCTOBER 16, 2024 CONT.**  
**1:00 - 3:30 PM**

**1:30 PM – 2:00 PM**

**The Rise and Importance of Intergenerational Living**



Because we're stronger together®

**Ilonka Walker**  
*Coordinator, Intergenerational Programs*  
*Generations United*

Ilonka Walker will explore the growing relevance of intergenerational housing, which brings together diverse age groups. The presentation will highlight current trends, showcasing an increase in interest in intergenerational living driven by economic challenges, evolving family structures, and a desire for community. She will discuss the benefits of intergenerational living and feature successful models from across the country.

**2:00 PM – 2:10 PM**

**Break**

**2:10 PM – 2:40 PM**

**UPLIFT Florida Network:  
Creating Communities of Belonging**



**Cynthia Kemp**  
*Board President*  
*UPLIFT Florida Network*

Imagine a statewide network of “villages” offering hyper-local support and engagement to older adults. This session will describe the village model which uses a combination of paid staff, volunteers, and community-based partnerships to create social networks and expand social capital to support older adults’ emotional, intellectual, and physical health. Panelists will explore how villages work with other community resources to meet the needs of older Floridians seeking to remain in their own homes and communities as they age. Serving as a connector, convener, and collaborator, UPLIFT Florida Network works to advance the village movement in Florida.

**2:40 PM – 3:00 PM**

**Better Housing Options Across the Lifespan**



**Shane Phillips**  
*Housing Initiative Project Manager*  
*Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies*  
*UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs*

This presentation will encourage individuals to pay attention to and advocate for local and state level actions that can help lead to diverse and abundant housing that supports affordability. These policies are often not older adult specific, so it is important to recognize the need to get involved in housing advocacy across the lifespan which will help provide more housing opportunities for older adults as well.

**3:00 PM – 3:20 PM**

**Breakout Discussion Groups**

We end the day by learning from one another: Attendees will breakout and discuss their challenges with housing, any best practices/resources they would like to highlight, and ways they would like to see SGS continue the conversation.

**3:20 PM – 3:30 PM**

**Closing**

Amanda James  
SGS Executive Director  
*SGS Executive Director*



46TH ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE  
APRIL 3 - 6, 2025  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

# Building Bridges:

*Collaborations and Communities in Aging*



**<https://southerngerontologicalsociety.org/meeting.html>**