



## Empowering Faith-Based Organizations to Build Affordable Homes

Across Florida, many faith-based organizations own underused land that could be part of the solution to our affordable housing crisis. But outdated zoning laws often make it difficult or even impossible to build housing on these sites—forcing congregations and nonprofit partners to navigate costly, slow, and uncertain rezoning processes.

In 2025, the Legislature passed [Senate Bill 1730](#), creating Florida’s new “**Yes-in-God’s-Backyard**” (YIGBY) law. YIGBY gives cities and counties the ability to approve affordable housing on eligible land owned by religious institutions, even if that land isn’t currently zoned for residential use.

But here is the catch: **YIGBY is optional**. Cities and counties *must choose* to use it. **That’s why local advocacy is critical** to bring this tool to life.

### How YIGBY Works

Local governments *may* allow affordable housing on: “[A]ny parcel, including any contiguous parcel . . . which is owned by a religious institution as defined in s. 170.201(2) which contains a house of public worship, regardless of underlying zoning” as long as at least 10 percent of the homes are affordable as defined in s. 420.0004.

Key points for activating YIGBY:

- **Local Flexibility.** YIGBY gives localities the authority to set development standards without needing a rezoning or comprehensive plan amendment, including density, height, setbacks, parking, and more.
- **Affordability Defined Locally.** Localities can define affordability in ways that reflect their own housing needs, provided at least 10% of the total units meet the statutory definition of affordable.
- **No Ordinance Required—Though Encouraged.** Local governments aren’t required to pass a new ordinance to begin using YIGBY. However, adopting local policy guidelines can provide clarity, consistency, and transparency for both developers and the public.

### Advocating for YIGBY

- **Educate, Inform, and Advocate.** Spread the word that this tool exists and that it can be a valuable part of a local toolkit for affordable homes. Proactive outreach can spark interest and build political will.
- **Build a Coalition.** YIGBY provides a natural opportunity to bring together cross-sector coalitions—faith-based leaders, housing advocates, local governments, philanthropy, builders, and financial institutions. It’s a chance to unite around shared goals for community development and affordability.
- **Make the Case.** Use data, storytelling, and visuals to demonstrate YIGBY’s potential. Make the case compelling and community-specific.

### Need Support?

The Florida Housing Coalition is here to help activate YIGBY. Contact Kody Glazer at [glazer@flhousing.org](mailto:glazer@flhousing.org) for more information.