

Y.I.G.B.Y. Yes in God's Backyard

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 But outdated zoning laws often make it difficult or even impossible to build housing on these sites, forcing congregations and nonprofit partners to navigate costly, slow,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 Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 1730-into law—also known as **Y.I.G.B.Y.: Yes in God's Back Yard**. Y.I.G.B.Y. 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.

How Y.I.G.B.Y. 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 Y.I.G.B.Y.:

- **Local Flexibility** Y.I.G.B.Y. gives localities the authority to set development standards without needing a rezoning or comprehensive plan amendment, including density, height, 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 Y.I.G.B.Y.. However, adopting local policy guidelines can provide clarity, consistency, and transparency for both developers and the public.

How to Activate Y.I.G.B.Y.

- **Educate & Advocate** – Share Y.I.G.B.Y. with your congregation, local leaders, and community partners.
- **Build a Coalition** – Bring together faith leaders, housing advocates, local governments, and Habitat to plan your project.
- **Make the Case** – Show how affordable homes built on your property can serve your mission and your neighbors for generations.

Let's Build Together!

*If your church owns land and has a heart for housing, **Habitat for Humanity Lake-Sumter** can help you turn vision into reality. Contact us today!*



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How Your Faith Group Can Make a Difference with Y.I.G.B.Y.

From Empty Lot to Senior Cottages

That grassy field behind your church could be more than just extra mowing. Imagine it as a row of charming, one-story cottages – safe, affordable homes for seniors in your congregation and community.

Breathe New Life into the Parsonage

If your parsonage is sitting empty, it could become a warm, affordable home for a local teacher, nurse, or young family – keeping your mission alive in every brick.

Transform a Large Parking Lot into Townhomes

A half-empty parking lot can still serve Sunday crowds and house working families during the week. Townhomes or apartments can fit alongside the spaces you need.

Build Accessible Housing for People with Disabilities

Your church already opens its doors to everyone – why not its land? Build affordable, accessible homes so adults with disabilities can live independently in a caring community.

Why Partner with Habitat for Humanity Lake-Sumter?

Habitat for Humanity Lake-Sumter has decades of experience working alongside faith communities to turn underused land into vibrant, affordable neighborhoods. With Y.I.G.B.Y., your congregation's property can directly address the housing crisis – while keeping your mission at the heart of the project.

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