

Urban Coalition Forms Group to Study L.A. Housing Crisis

"An increasingly serious crisis" in low and moderate income housing here has prompted the Greater Los Angeles Urban Coalition to form a private and public leadership group to look for solutions.

Planned as a six-month effort, the Leadership Conference for Low and Moderate Income Housing will include representatives of government, community groups, labor unions, builders, business and universities.

Urban Coalition directors approved the formation of the "action group" during Tuesday's annual meeting at Rodger Young Center where Stewart Dawson, Prudential Insurance Co. of America vice president, said:

"... If current trends are allowed to continue unabated, we will in not too many years find ourselves engulfed in a predicament that will be most difficult, if not impossible, to address."

A recent report, added Dawson, "warned that Los Angeles County may at some future point contain the nation's largest slum." He said

there are 281,000 deteriorating or dilapidated housing units in Los Angeles.

The new leadership group, said Dawson, will try to produce some practical financing and land-use strategies aimed at increasing the supply of low and moderate income housing, rehabilitating and maintaining the present stock and providing housing opportunities "in all communities."

Among those already agreeing to join in the six-month study are the East Los Angeles Community Union, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Western Center on Law and Poverty, the Building Industry Assn. and Interfaith Housing.

Others are the Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council, Tenant Action Council, Savings and Loan League, American Bar Assn. Lawyers for Housing, Community Relations Conference of Southern California, members of the Los Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles City Housing Authority and housing committees of the state Legislature.