

Additional Housing Resources

This list of additional resources related to housing is meant to help you and your community continue your education as you build a foundation for attainable housing in your community.

Planning for Housing

RESOURCE	NOTES	LINK
Statewide Housing Plan (MSHDA)	The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) is creating a statewide housing plan for Michigan. Outreach and engagement was done in 2020 and 2021 with the full plan coming soon.	https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/developers/statewide-housing-plan
Zoning Reform Toolkit (Michigan Association of Planning)	This resource from the Michigan Association of Planning highlights 15 tools communities can use to meet their housing goals and features many examples from around the state.	https://www.planningmi.org/zoning-reform-for-housing
Housing Ready Checklist (Housing North)	Another version of a checklist to gauge where your community is in terms of housing readiness. This tool was developed by Housing North, a nonprofit working on housing solutions in Northern Michigan.	https://ea615034-de6a-4c91-8e02-70feeb128ef5.filesusr.com/ugd/a39afc_7835a5c9072340888e0b1836b4238cae.pdf
Michigan Spatial Mismatch Tool (MSU)	This interactive online mapping tool allows user to “map and visualize spatial mismatches between housing and employment opportunities in the state of Michigan.” Several useful tutorial videos are available to help get you started.	http://msmtool.spdc.msu.edu/
Rural Housing Readiness Assessment (Iowa State University Extension)	This housing checklist from Iowa State University inspired the versions MSU Extension created. Great tool for rural communities to explore. [Note: This resource was developed for use in Iowa and contains references to Iowa state statutes that are not applicable in Michigan.]	https://www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/rural-housing-readiness-assessment



Implementing Housing

RESOURCE	NOTES	LINK
Missing Middle Housing	This companion website to Daniel Parolek's 2020 book <i>Missing Middle Housing: Thinking Big and Building Small to Respond to Today's Housing Crisis</i> highlights key points from the book, examples of this housing in the news, and other additional resources.	https://missingmiddlehousing.com/
Guide to Redevelopment Ready Sites (MEDC)	Redeveloping vacant or otherwise underutilized land for housing can help a community meet their housing needs. This Redevelopment Ready Community guide outlines the process of creating redevelopment ready sites for developers.	https://www.miplace.org/4a73cb/globalassets/documents/rrc/rrc-guide-rrsites3.pdf
Gateway & Natural Amenity Region (GNAR) Initiative Housing Affordability Toolkit	The GNAR Initiative is a project out of Utah State University that seeks to assist gateway and natural amenity regions in the Western US with land use challenges. This toolkit features webinars and resources related to housing affordability such as deed restrictions, rentals, and more.	https://www.usu.edu/gnar/tools/housing_affordability
Best Practices in Suburban Housing Affordability: Understanding, Motivating, and Policy Options (WCER)	This white paper focuses on suburban cities and smaller, growing urban centers. This paper can serve as a foundation as metropolitan leaders consider their housing policy.	https://metroextension.wsu.edu/duplicated-center-activity-housing/
Making Room: Housing for a Changing America (AARP)	This guide "introduces readers — be they residential builders or designers, community leaders or the general public — to a future that can feature a menu of housing options that better serve people of all ages and the needs of a changing America."	https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/housing/info-2018/making-room-housing-for-a-changing-america.html
The ABCs of ADUs (AARP)	This guidebook from AARP is a great resource for understanding what an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) is and how and why they might be built. It also includes best practices for communities looking to support ADU development	https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/housing/info-2019/accessory-dwelling-units-guide-download.html
Form-Based Codes: A Step-by-Step Guide for Communities (CMAP)	Prepared by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) this "handbook outlines what form-based codes are, how they are created, and how they can positively impact a community's livability."	https://formbasedcodes.org/books/form-based-codes-step-step-guide-communities/
Parking Reform Made Easy (Access Magazine)	This article by Richard Wilson outlines 12 steps to parking reform for communities and may be useful in reconsidering off-street parking requirements.	https://www.accessmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2015/10/parking-reform.pdf



Financial Tools

RESOURCE	NOTES	LINK
Tax Increment Financing (TIF)	TIFs allow communities can earmark portions of property tax revenue in local districts to pay for capital improvements, property repairs, etc. This resource from the Senate Fiscal Agency summarizes various TIF program in Michigan	https://www.senate.michigan.gov/SFA/Publications/Notes/2016Notes/NotesWin16dk.pdf
Brownfield Tax Increment Financing	This specific TIF program was created by the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act specifically focuses on the redevelopment of unused or blight areas.	https://www.miplace.org/p/programs/brownfield-tax-increment-financing/
State Land Bank Authority	“The State Land Bank Authority works to create a positive economic impact on Michigan communities by recycling land to productive use. We work in a coordinated manner to foster the development of property to promote and support land bank operations at the county and local levels.”	https://www.michigan.gov/landbank
USDA’s Rural Housing Services	This agency of the USDA offers many programs to improve housing in rural areas such as loans, grants and loan guarantees for single- and multi-family housing, childcare centers, and other community services.	https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/agencies/rural-housing-service
MSU Extension Homeowner Education	As a HUD-certified counseling agency, MSU Extension helps potential, current and future home buyers/renters to understand the complex home buyer/renter process and learn the true costs of responsible homeownership.	https://www.canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth/Homeownership/
A Countywide Approach to Solving a housing Shortage (MI Community Minutes Podcast)	This podcast episode features Kalamazoo County Housing Director Mary Balkema talking about the about innovative approaches Kalamazoo County is taking to addressing a significant housing shortage.	https://open.spotify.com/episode/4Y5b3G5jilG1ns8yASJK7P?si=f3f90816a29a4764&nd=1
Affordable housing How-To Guide: How to Use State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for Affordable Housing Production and Preservation	This guide from US Treasury is a summary of how communities can use funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to make investments n affordable housing.	https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Affordable-Housing-How-To-Guide.pdf
Missing Middle housing Program (MSHDA)	The state has is launching an effort increase housing for those earning 185%-300% of federal poverty guidelines. Learn more about that developing program here.	https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Affordable-Housing-How-To-Guide.pdf



Public Engagement

RESOURCE	NOTES	LINK
Public Participation Strategy Guide (MEDC)	This guide from the Redevelopment Ready Communities program of MEDC provides a framework for a community to develop and begin using a public participation plan.	https://www.miplace.org/4a73c9/globalassets/documents/rrc/rrc-guide-public-participation3.pdf
Communications Toolkit (Housing North)	Another tool from Housing North that focuses in on <i>how</i> you communicate to residents and stakeholders about housing.	https://ea615034-de6a-4c91-8e02-70feeb128ef5.filesusr.com/ugd/a39afc_aa7ebe5f9d23437388e224f1a35460c9.pdf

Related MSU Extension Articles

TITLE	LINK
"Community discussions around housing: Explaining common key terms"	https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/community-discussions-around-housing-explaining-common-key-terms
"Community discussion around housing: Identifying existing missing middle housing"	https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/community-discussion-around-housing-identifying-existing-missing-middle-housing
"Study neighborhood typology to discover a library of information on form"	https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/study_neighborhood_typology_to_discover_a_library_of_information_on_form_pa
"Accessory Dwelling Units – Coming to a neighborhood near you?"	https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/accessory_dwelling_units_coming_to_a_neighborhood_near_you
"Accessory dwelling units could alleviate housing shortage"	https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/accessory-dwelling-units-could-alleviate-housing-shortage
"Considering regulation of short-term rentals in light of the sharing economy"	https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/considering_regulation_of_short_term_rentals_in_light_of_the_sharing_econom
"MSU Extension develops online resource, programs addressing historical redlining of Michigan cities"	https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/msu-extension-develops-online-resource-programs-addressing-historical-redlining-of-michigan-cities
"Spatial Mismatch in Housing and Employment: A Tool for Targeted Intervention in Michigan Neighborhoods"	https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan-spatial-mismatch-tool

For more information on housing and land use education and resources from MSU Extension contact a [Land Use Educator close you](#).

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