

Planning for Housing Checklist

This checklist is meant as a guide to help you and your community assess where you currently stand in your efforts to plan for housing. Not every item on the checklist will be appropriate for every community. This checklist is meant to serve as a starting point for local conversations about successes and opportunities related to meeting your housing goals.

Public Engagement

Our community has...	NO	YES	NOT SURE
Formed a local group (committee, task force, etc.) to advance housing goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Created a public participation plan ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Used a variety of community engagement tools (list tools) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Included the following groups in engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employers (both large and small), economic developers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Families (Were they representative of your community?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residents (Were they representative of your community?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonprofits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other local units of government, schools, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landowners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ [The Public Participation Plan Strategy guide](#) was developed by MEDC to help communities create and implement a public participation plan.



Existing Plans & Documents

Our community has...	No	YES	NOT SURE
An interest or need for more housing in our community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
An adopted Master Plan with up-to-date data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A section of the master plan dedicated to housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A housing needs assessment, target market analysis, or other similar study ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Studied the typologies of our neighborhoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Established specific goals and metrics for housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vacant lot inventory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rental unit inventory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upper story downtown housing inventory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A transportation plan that links housing to places to work and play	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conducted walkability assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identified areas for redevelopment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Become Redevelopment Ready Certified through MEDC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Studied water and sewer infrastructure to ensure it will meet current and future housing needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Explored our history of planning and zoning and other policies and other policies as tools for exclusion ^{2,3}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹ [MSHDA's Office of Market Research](#) has more resources on understanding housing markets and data.

² [MSU Extension's Redlining in Michigan Project](#) has more information on the history on ongoing legacy of racist housing policies

³ [Wayne State Universities Equity Audit Tool](#) can help communities assess how well they are achieving equitable outcomes



Housing Supports

Our community has programs or initiatives to...	NO	YES	NOT SURE
Incentivize energy-efficient remodeling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support home repairs (low/no interest loans, local nonprofit initiatives, HUD lead abatement programs, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide homebuyer and renter education and supports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support homeownership for residents through assistance programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide supportive services and rehousing to those experiencing homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Collaborations

Our community is partnering and collaborating with...	NO	YES	NOT SURE
Others in the region on transportation issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A local or regional group to advance housing goals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community development finance institutions for alternative sources of development funds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MSHDA, MDARD, and other state agencies working on housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Agriculture, and other federal agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employers seeking to provide housing and/or housing assistance to their employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Review your responses to the checklist. For each item you marked “Not Sure” make note to follow up on that information. For the items you marked “No” consider adding tasks to explore if that is something your community should be doing.

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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