

Region A Western U.P.  
Housing Partnership

# Action Plan

Michigan's First Statewide Housing Plan was released in 2022 to address the numerous challenges limiting access to safe, healthy, affordable, accessible, and attainable housing for all in a community of their choice. The RHP lead agency for Region A is the Western U.P. Planning & Development Region (WUPPDR), encompassing six counties including Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, and Ontonagon. Below are the goals and strategies planned for the region to build a connected, collaborative housing ecosystem to address the affordable housing crisis in our communities.

## PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS

**Goal:** Increase cross-system partnerships to strengthen the homelessness response system, achieve greater housing stability, and impact social determinants of health.

**Strategy:** Develop referral linkages and tracking mechanisms between relevant stakeholders, state, and local partnerships to strengthen coordination and streamline services to create permanent housing and services.

**Goal:** Use qualitative and quantitative data to better understand and meet the housing and service needs of households at risk of and experiencing homelessness.

**Strategy:** Identify, compile, and analyze on a consistent basis the data sources that can provide insight into the homelessness response system, such as aggregate data from domestic and intimate partner violence providers and the Homeless Management Information System, qualitative data collected with the help of people with lived experience, and other data systems. Where possible, disaggregate data by race, ethnicity, and disabilities to better understand disparities.

## COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

**Goal:** Increase inclusive education and awareness of existing housing programs and services in the state.

**Strategy:** Increase awareness among housing providers and those who provide assistance of the programs and services available by creating a list of resources.

**Strategy:** Increase awareness of the process for qualifying, enrolling, and obtaining local- and state-subsidized housing, including waiting lists, among those needing assistance.

**Strategy:** Create a list of existing housing programs and services available in the region. Train stakeholders in the use of the programs and services.



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More information about the Statewide Housing Plan and the Western U.P. Housing Partnership is available on the MSHDA website. If interested in joining the Regional Housing Partnership that serves your community, contact Lisa McKenzie at the Western UP Planning & Development Region at (906) 482-7205 ext. 118 email: [lmckenzie@wuppd.org](mailto:lmckenzie@wuppd.org)

## HOUSING STOCK

### **Development**

**Goal:** Increase the supply of the full spectrum of housing that is affordable and attainable to Michigan residents.

**Strategy:** Advocate at the federal and state levels for increased funding, including gap funding, to support affordable and attainable housing ranging from small- to large-scale housing development.

**Strategy:** Streamline state and local government funding processes, including creating a one-stop resource toolkit for developers and removing barriers to public-private housing collaborations.

### **Missing Middle and Workforce Housing**

**Goal:** Increase missing middle and workforce housing stock to facilitate greater housing choice.

**Strategy:** Staffing/capacity to pursue and implement incentives to support the development of missing middle & workforce housing.\*

## HOUSING STOCK

### **Zoning**

**Goal:** Expand the use of equitable and holistic local planning and zoning practices to increase housing supply.

**Strategy:** Develop model language for zoning amendments or overlays that remove obstacles to increasing the housing supply. \*

### **Combination\***

**Goal:** Create housing through Development, Rehabilitation and Preservation, Missing Middle and Workforce Housing, Zoning opportunities.

**Strategy:** Combination of all five strategies provides support for an increase in new construction of housing stock for sale or for rent.

#### Definitions:

**Attainable Housing:** Housing that meets the needs of households in terms of size, location, and other features and is affordable at the household income level. (30% or less of income)

**Affordable Housing:** Housing occupant pays no more than 30% of gross income in housing costs including utilities.

**Workforce Housing:** Housing that is affordable, and is typically created for workers in close proximity to jobs.

**Homelessness:** The state of being an individual or family who does not own or rent a regular place of dwelling due to poverty, transition, or material or life threatening occurrences.

Please copy this link to your browser or use the QR code to complete a survey to provide feedback on these goals proposed for our region!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WUPActionplan>

