

# Housing Ecosystem Work Plan

**Goal 1 (Priority): Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the housing ecosystem by enhancing collaboration on housing between state agencies, philanthropy, local governments, tribal nations, education, and the wide variety of private-sector organization that make up the housing ecosystem.**

*Strategy 1.2: (Housing Stock Workgroup Partnership) Create and/or align regional networks to promotes discourse, identify gaps, leverage resources, address systemic inequities, remove barriers and collaborate on housing plans and projects; assess capacity of regional networks on a regular basis and fill gaps where appropriate.*

**KPI Goal:** Reduce the average timeline from permit application to occupancy by establishing 2-3 AmeriCorps member in the region to help with RRC capacity in 2025.

**Owner:** LISC/ Lead

1. SWM1st- Create a list of City, Village and Township contacts in Region J/8.- **Completed**
2. LISC- Connect on AmeriCorps programing and partnership to build capacity- **Completed**
3. Lead/LISC-Find counties willing to host AmeriCorps members to trial the programing- **Completed**
4. LISC-Establish 2-3 AmeriCorps member in the region to help with RRC capacity- 3 applications have been submitted and have been approved by LISC National!

**Notes:** A regional community contact list was created. LISC Kalamazoo has been working with LISC National on setting up the application for the AmeriCorps program. Couties are preparing matching funds and strategies for hosting a member. Kalamazoo, Van Buren and Berrien Counties have submitted applications. The AmeriCorps members will be assisting with capacity needs for communities looking to become certified as a Redevelopment Ready Community or learn more about the steps to be proactive for housing development.

*Strategy 2.2:(Older Adult Workgroup Partnership) Bring technical resources to communities (including a wide selection of housing dates and analysis) to help them become ready for new housing development through grants and other opportunities.*

**KPI Goal:** Four meetings a year to discuss creating a liaison for housing advocacy, policy, and housing development.

**Owner:** Lead RHP

1. Lead-Create summary of Housing North and Housing Next agency roles in community- **Completed**
2. Lead/Consultant-Host meeting with regional partners to discuss the needs for each County. Presentations by Housing Next and Housing North for Q and A
3. Lead/Consultant-Create an advisory committee
4. Subgroup-Draft a business proposal, roles and outline of tasks (purpose, key activities, need)
5. Subgroup- Establish funding partners
6. Subgroup- Outline hiring process

**Notes:** Conversations to start in early 2025. We are looking at using the services of the Office of Rural Prosperity housed in LEO at the State. There is some synergy with this request across the State as well. We hope they will be able to help with meetings, strategy and overall planning. The director of the Office of Rural Prosperity previously started Housing North and has experience with these regional conversations.

**Goal 2 (Priority): Support an expansion of housing that is affordable and fairly assessed by increasing the availability and demographic diversity of workers in the construction, planning and zoning and real estate industries.**

*Strategy 2.1: Work with building trade association , community colleges, workforce development agencies and unions to develop more inclusive models that assist underrepresented group, including immigrant communities and justice-involved individuals, at the high school and postsecondary levels, to enter and complete apprenticeship and certification programs in planning and zoning, real estate, and the skilled trades, including gaining expertise in weatherization and energy efficiency, and barrier-free and universal design.*

**KPI Goal:** Complete an assessment of the construction workforce for Region J to help increase the number of individuals who enter apprenticeship programs and become certified in the building trades.

**Owner:** Lead RHP/Others?

1. Lead-Create a list of all Trade Unions, Home builders Association, schools etc. in region who will have programing. – **Completed**
2. Lead/chairs-Clarify inspector shortages and barriers to certification. Should counties hire inspectors to help municipalities?
1. Lead-What are the barriers to success in these programs? - Phase 1 will be completed Jan 2025

Notes: Assessment of the construction workforce and contractor pipeline for Region J will be completed by the Upjohn Team. The team will focus on three elements of the pipeline: those who recently completed construction training programs at the secondary and post-secondary level (and others who recently completed their education), those working in construction occupations who may have an interest in becoming a contractor, and existing contractors who are interested in growing their business. Understanding how those in the construction industry develop skills, create businesses, and grow businesses is key to identifying ways to improve the overall pipeline.

More funding is needed to complete this study. Initial funding was used from Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC) EDA Grant. The funding source could only cover the SMPC service area of Kalamazoo, Calhoun, St. Joseph, and Branch Counties. This also does not cover the interviews that should be completed for a full comprehensive assessment. This is a candidate for MSHDA Action Plan funding for up to \$25,000

*Strategy 2.2: Provide resources to help underrepresented entrepreneurs launch and grow construction, planning and zoning development and real estate businesses.*

**KPI Goal:** Complete an assessment of the construction workforce for Region J to help increase the number of underrepresented individuals as principals in the construction business.

**Owner:** Lead RHP/Others?

2. Lead-Create list of all Trade Unions, Home builders Association, schools etc. in region who will have programing- **Completed**
3. Lead-Create list of minority-owned businesses for each county- **In progress**
4. Lead-Assessment of construction workforce in Region J- Phase 1 will be completed Jan 2025

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