

Draft Unhoused and Equity Work Plan

Goal 1.2 (Priority): Identify and advocate for modifications to policies and practices to remove barriers across the housing continuum for BIPOC, immigrants, migrants, refugees, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+, those with low incomes, and other marginalized populations.

Strategy: Require municipalities to include residential (rural, urban, suburban) input to identify and address redlining, exclusionary zoning, and other discriminatory policies and practices that result in inequities and residential segregation including but not limited to appraisals, assessment of state equalized value, loan application denials, and insurance premiums

KPI Goal: Hold region-wide trainings/workshops on the lasting impact of redlining and exclusionary zoning as it pertains to homeownership rates and the steps to take to rectify these actions.

Owner: Lead RHP

1. Explore existing training with MSEU and Kalamazoo Library for examples- [Completed](#)
2. Create a list of best practices for furthering fair housing, inclusionary zoning, homeownership, zoning ordinances and historic discrimination- [Completed](#)
3. History of redlining and exclusionary zoning- [Completed](#)
4. Find example of non-discriminatory ordinance and source of income protection ordinance- [Completed](#)
5. Add on housing zoning training for a full day- [Completed](#)
6. Provide education to 10 municipalities – [Completed](#)

[Notes:](#) This Spring RHP Leads worked with MSU Extension to facilitate four workshops on equity in zoning. These workshops were held in three towns across the region, Lawrence, Coldwater and Kalamazoo, to ensure they were accessible to each municipality. One training was hosted virtually for those unable to attend an in-person training.

The in-person workshops were attended by 49 community leaders, realtors, landlords, and other individuals working in the field of housing and development and other interested parties. Participants expressed gratitude for the training and spoke on how they might use the information they were given in their master plans and other projects. See summary attached. The shorter virtual training was attended by 13 individuals. This is recorded and will be posted to the RHP website for anyone to use.

KPI Goal: Create website to share RHP Trainings and other organization trainings.

Owner: Lead RHP

1. Collect website quotes- [Completed](#)
2. Secure funding- [Completed](#)
3. Hire consultant - [Completed](#)
4. Host trainings from partner organizations- [In progress](#)

[Notes:](#) Website is being designed and built currently.

KPI Goal: Unification of housing messaging by meeting regionally on goals 3 times in 2025

Owner: A new advocacy group was created

1. Subgroup Charis- Explore partnerships with Housing Matters and Evolution Housing to guide these conversations.
2. Subgroup- Advocate through conversations, letters, social media updated training for appraisers at license level class requirements
3. Subgroup- Advocate for the passage of Senate Bill (SB 293) with our legislators for more affordable and accessible housing
4. Join with the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness for Source of Income Protection. (Bills have been introduced in the House (HB 4062, 4063) and Senate (SB 205, 206, 207) in 2023 to protect Michigan renters from discrimination based on their source of income.)
5. 5 lawmakers, write 10 social media posts, write 5 formal communications with lawmakers, and have 5 direct conversations with lawmakers

Notes: An advocacy workgroup has been established to work on this strategy. If you would like to get involved, please contact the co-chairs. The above steps will be modified as needed by those in the new advocacy focused working group.

Beth Berglin

Director, Policy & Strategy
Michigan Transformation Collective
517-648-6089
beth@mitransformation.org

Possible New co-chair?

*Strategy: Fund nontraditional and less restrictive funding streams to increase homelessness prevention and diversion efforts, and modify program requirements (e.g., Fair Market Rent (FMR), etc.), to keep households from entering shelter or staying in unsheltered situations in order to reduce trauma. **Not started***

Notes: We are reviewing a list of possible new goals. The working group will be narrowing them down and prioritizing them at the next working group meeting.

*Strategy 3.3: Fund capacity in local organizations to implement evidence-based service models that address the needs of specific populations and marginalized communities, and in the homelessness response system. – **Not started***

Notes: We are reviewing a list of possible new goals. The working group will be narrowing them down and prioritizing them at the next working group meeting.

Moving forward, the Unhoused and Equity Workgroup will be evaluating the progress we've made in the last year and deciding if we have brought our goals to completion, or if they require more attention. We will also be looking at our Tier Two goals and will discuss the possibility of beginning to work toward accomplishing them.