



## Building a Foundation for Attainable Housing Recap – Southwest Housing Partnership

In the second quarter of 2024, the Southwest Housing Partnership and MSU Extension partnered to host three one-day housing workshops titled Building a Foundation to Attainable Housing at different locations throughout the region. This program was requested by Southwest Housing Partnership as part of the implementation of their [regional action plan](#) that calls for “holding 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”. The three workshops reached a total of 49 attendees from southwest Michigan.

The workshops were designed to provide education for local government officials, staff, and other leaders on housing trends and tools that Michigan communities can use to meet community housing goals. During the day, participants also learned about the history of zoning and other policies as a tool for exclusion in the past and strategies for more equitable processes and policies in the future. These workshops brought local leaders together for engaging discussions and activities that reviewed local master plans and zoning ordinances with a housing lens. A summary of the registration and attendance for each workshop is below, everyone who registered was provided a copies of the program materials.

| Date       | Location (County)     | Registered | Attended |
|------------|-----------------------|------------|----------|
| 04/23/2024 | Lawrence (Van Buren)  | 19         | 14       |
| 05/29/2024 | Coldwater (Branch)    | 17         | 7        |
| 06/17/2024 | Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo) | 44         | 28       |
| Total      |                       | 80         | 49       |

After each training participants were asked to complete a short evaluation survey. A total of 27 attendees completed that survey (response rate of 55.1%). A summary of those responses is below followed by a full description of the program. If you have any questions or would like to bring this, or other MSU Extension land use programs to your community, please contact Tyler Augst at (269) 436-0520 or [augsttyl@msu.edu](mailto:augsttyl@msu.edu).

### Evaluation Summary

#### Building A Foundation for Attainable Housing with Southwest Housing Partnership

Of the 49 attendees in this program, 27 completed the evaluation survey showing that:

- 96.3% of respondents (26) reported increased knowledge about the topic
- 96.3% of respondents (26) reported enhanced skills to be effective in their role
- 96.3% of respondents (26) reported increased confidence in their ability to fulfill their role in their community
- 100% (27) found the valuable to their growth and development
- 85.2% (23) of respondents will share the information provided with others

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- 81.5% (22) of respondents will learn more on the topic
- 63.0% (17) of respondents will engage local officials

Participants also had an opportunity to share what changes they planned to make as a result of the program. Twelve participants provided at least one change; selected responses are below:

- “Involve the DDA in housing topics and advocacy. Better engage with other community partners as advocates for more flexible zoning.”
- “Propose changes to zoning ord.”
- “Ask our planner about many of the tools discussed.”
- “I will take this information to my village and hope to get new outlook on some of the laws in place”
- “I understand that your community needs to establish a scattered site tax increment financing authority through its brownfield authority”
- “Share this out more broadly.”
- “Engage locals and leaders in a more effective manner”
- “Contact some resources provided”

## Program Descriptions

### Building A Foundation for Attainable Housing with Southwest Housing Partnership

Michigan is facing a housing challenge of serious proportions as discussed in [Michigan's Statewide Housing Plan](#). The lack of affordable, attainable and workforce housing is becoming a critical issue that limits the full potential of our communities. Regional, tribal, and local officials and staff have a responsibility to help communities address housing demands and ensure an availability of a wide range of housing types and prices. Despite the challenges, there are a diverse range of planning and regulatory tools available as solutions. Communities that proactively plan and implement greater access to a variety of housing types can improve residents' quality of life and overall prosperity.

MSU Extension, in partnership with the [Region J Housing Partnership](#), is offering this free training to help local government officials and staff plan for, and implement strategies to improve access to attainable, affordable, and inclusive housing. Activities in the program will help build participants' skills and confidence in local housing discussions and decisions. This training will cover:

- Perspectives on Michigan's current housing situation, trends, and local data
- History of zoning and other policies as a tool for exclusion
- Strategies communities can use to assess their current housing situation and plan for the future
- An overview of zoning and other policy tools, including tools for greater equity in zoning
- Two scenario-based learning activities to gain experience and confidence in housing discussions around planning and implementation

Lunch will be provided and all participants will receive a copy of the program materials and additional resources. To fully participate in the activities participants are asked to either bring, or have access to, a copy of their community's master plan, zoning ordinance, and zoning map.

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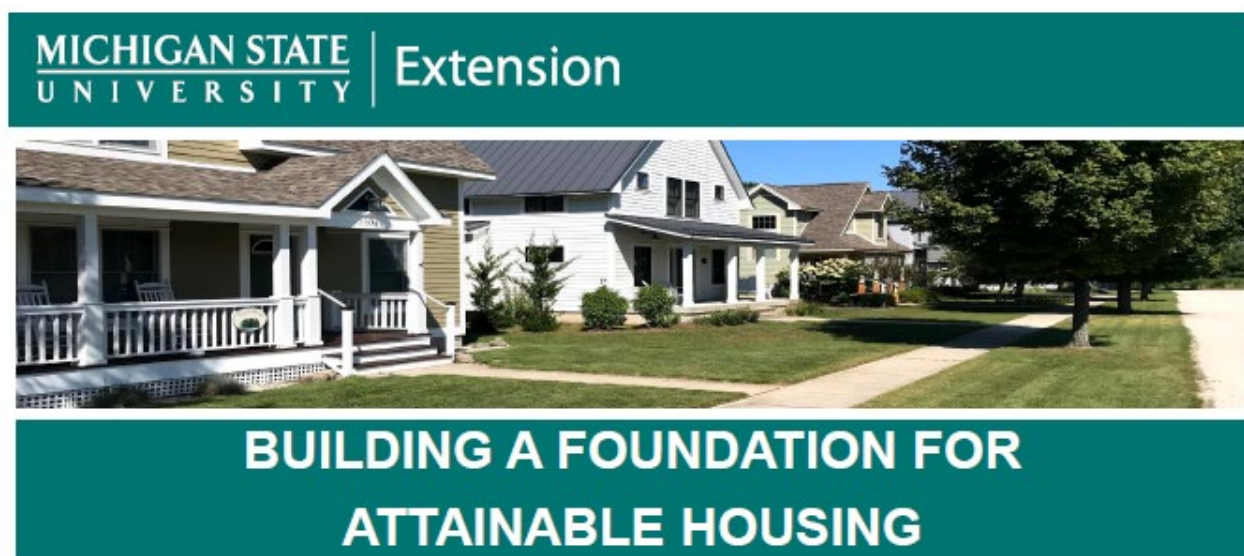
## Locations

This workshop is being offered in three different locations throughout the Regional Housing Partnership. Choose the location and date most convenient for you.

- Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
  - Van Buren Conference Center, 490 S Paw Paw St, Lawrence, MI 49064
- Wednesday, May 29, 2024 10:00am – 3:00 pm
  - ProMedica Coldwater Regional Hospital Community Care and Conference Center 370 E. Chicago Coldwater, MI 49036
- Monday, June 17, 2024, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
  - Kalamazoo Expo Center Room B, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

## Cost:

This training is being provided free to participants thanks to the partnership with the [Region J Housing Partnership](#).



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