

Regional Housing Development Strategy Questionnaire

In preparation to create a regional housing strategy, gather copies of your land use/zoning map and a statistical breakdown of the types of houses in your community. (i.e. number of Apartments, Single Family Dwellings, Row Houses, etc.). Also, gather information about local real estate, vacancy rates, and population demographics. For information pertaining to your water and sewage systems, contact your local engineer.

Consider conducting a Comprehensive Asset Map of your community/region as part of your strategic planning process. This will help you see the larger picture of your current resources and anticipated needs. MCDP can assist you through the process of Asset Mapping.

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY INVENTORY

Current Housing:

1. What is the number of vacant lots (housing only) in your community?
2. How many houses are currently for sale in your community? What types of homes are they?
3. Does your community have rental units? How many? What type?
4. Does your community have any vacant/unused building which could be developed for housing purposes/retrofitted?
5. What is the predominant issue with housing in your community (i.e. need for senior housing units, etc.)?
6. What housing issues do you anticipate in the future related to new developments, your aging population, etc.?
7. Identify (map) where potential housing/residential developments could/would occur.

Water/Waste Management:

Water System

1. How does your municipality currently provide water services? What is the major source of water? Private Wells? Lakes? Reservoirs?
2. What is the maximum capacity of your water service? *i.e. What is the maximum population your water system can provide services to?*
3. What is your current population?

Sewer System

1. What is the maximum capacity of your sewer system? *i.e. gallons/day?*
2. What is the current capacity of your system? *i.e. gallons/day?*

Anticipating Development and Housing Needs

1. Who are the existing/anticipated developers in your area? What type(s) of development is/are happening (I.e. Potash, Agricultural, Dam)?
2. How many employees are expected to move into area? Are these permanent/part-time/contracted employees? What is the expected development timeline?
3. What are the expected housing needs in relation to development (Single family, apartments, transient (motel, hotel)?
4. What additional infrastructure, facilities, and services are needed to correspond to an influx in your population?
5. Identify (map) where potential residential and commercial development could/would occur in relationship to the new development.

REGIONAL HOUSING AVAILABILITY

You may find it useful to compile each community's housing data in chart form.

Town/Village/ Hamlet/RM	Vacant Residential Lots (Serviced/not serviced)	Homes for Sale (Type)	Rental units (Number of units, type)	Transient Housing (Motels)	Other Potential Buildings/Land	Current Issues/Priority

DISCUSSION

- **Determining your housing needs, both individually and regionally. Do you need housing for seniors, families, and singles. Consider hiring a consultant to determine your best housing strategy and approach for your region.**
- **Consideration of different kinds of housing types – houses, townhomes, apartments, condos, rentals, room and board.**
- **Consideration of alternative housing options: eco-housing, non-profit co-operative housing, room and board opportunities; retro-fitted buildings/finding new uses for old spaces.**
- **Consider housing development as it relates to new or anticipated economic ventures (local and/or outside development, local and/or outside investors) such as “green” technologies and energy, potash and diamond mines. (I.e. new mine workers will likely be young, unmarried males needing rental properties).**
- **Creating a Housing Development Committee to establish and maintain housing information for your region (i.e. Allied Community Housing Association).**
- **Creating a website celebrating your region and collaborative efforts, posting housing availability and development opportunities.**
- **Anticipating the need to adapt to changes in your population: i.e. aging seniors, youth, family growth; how these changes will affect other aspects of community life (i.e. business services, volunteer opportunities, recreational and social opportunities).**
- **Brainstorming potential problems and creative, innovative solutions (For your individual community and for the region).**
- **Developing a strategy for attracting investors (local and otherwise).**