

What is a 'Housing Ready' Community?



About Us

A Housing Ready Community offers a wide variety of housing options to meet the needs of a dynamic and diverse population. Everyone can secure attainable housing that fits their unique needs and allows them to contribute to their communities, including:

- People entering the workforce
- Young families
- Retirees
- Early entrepreneurs
- Working people with low incomes

Housing Ready Communities are healthy, robust, and bursting with opportunity for all. They have removed common barriers to attainable housing by:

- Coordinating projects between units of government and developers
- Revising outdated zoning to ensure it supports today's housing needs
- Exploring local government tools such as Land Bank and Brownfield Redevelopment authorities, and more
- Creating Housing Action Plans that provide clear paths to housing and future growth
- Developing housing opportunity maps to achieve housing goals

We are living through a national housing crisis. Housing North is developing solutions like the Housing Ready Program to address the way this crisis is impacting our region's residents and businesses.

Housing North is dedicated to creating housing choices for those not served by our current housing market. We focus on attainable housing for our workforce and affordable living situations for low-income residents.

OUR MISSION

is to build awareness, influence policy, and expand capacity so communities can create housing solutions that meet their unique needs.

THE MISSING INGREDIENT

A key ingredient missing from most rural housing mixes is a community development liaison who can connect local governments, non-profit organizations, developers, local businesses, and philanthropic funders to generate innovative housing solutions that serve the complex needs of today's communities.

This is where Housing Ready Directors come in! They are experienced community development professionals with expertise in land use planning, real estate development, and project management. They connect communities with proven solutions, as well as with the tools and networks needed to implement them. **The Housing Ready Program aims to provide these boots-on-the-ground connectors in the communities within our service area that have demonstrated a need and a desire for the position.**



STEPS TO BECOMING HOUSING READY

- ✓ Review Communications Toolkit and advocacy materials
- ✓ Complete Housing Ready checklist
- ✓ Work with Housing North to implement checklist (ongoing)
- ✓ Develop Housing Action Map & Housing Opportunity Map
- ✓ Facilitate housing projects and more opportunities

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

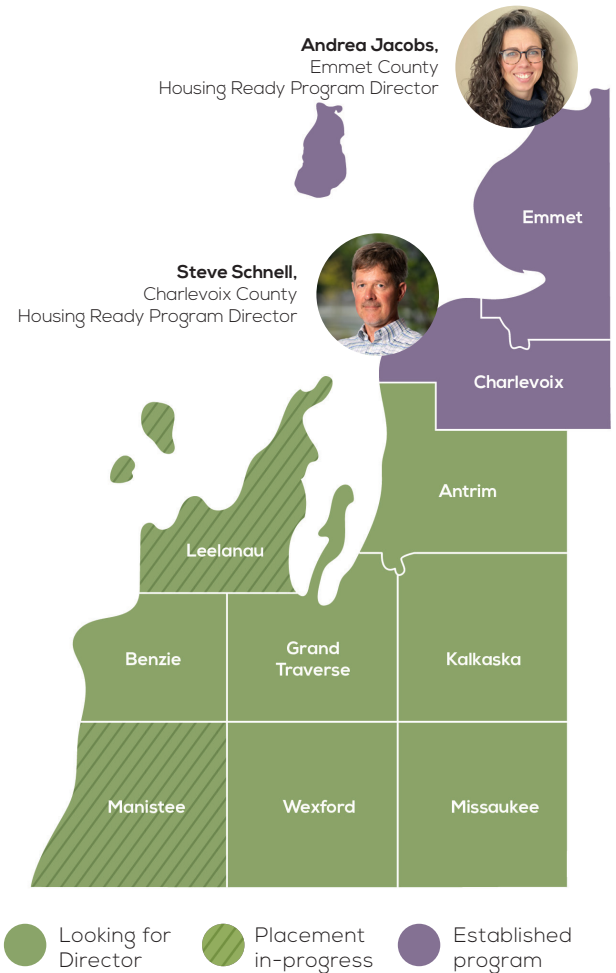
Thanks to the generosity of our private and public funders, both Charlevoix and Emmet counties have placed highly-qualified, locally-based staff providing customized services tailored to the specific needs of the counties they serve, with success defined in collaboration with participating partners.

In just two short years, Housing Ready Program Directors have made impressive progress, and they're just getting started!

- Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Program implemented in Charlevoix County
- Deed Restriction Program launched in City of Charlevoix and expanded to Petoskey
- Petoskey LOFTS at Lumber Square project approved due to Housing Ready advocacy
- Zoning and master plan updates in Boyne City, Petoskey, Charlevoix, and East Jordan
- Housing Opportunity maps developed in Charlevoix and Emmet counties

Additional Program Milestones

- 50 communities introduced to Housing Ready Program
- 13 units of government have endorsed the Housing Ready Program
- 2 Housing Action Plans currently in progress
- 1 Housing Action Plan completed (Manistee)
- 500+ housing units built as a result of Housing Ready advocacy and technical support



How You Can Help

A strong Housing Ready program is funded by **private philanthropy, foundations, nonprofit organizations, and units of government** all working toward the same attainable housing goals.



DONATIONS

of cash or securities will ensure the Housing Ready Program has the necessary resources to facilitate housing systems change throughout our 10-county service area.

Gifts can be designated to support a specific Housing Ready Program in the county of your choice.



SPEAK UP!

Let your county leadership know you want a Housing Ready Program working to solve the housing crisis **in your community.**