

BAYFIELD COUNTY HOUSING READINESS

Communities across Bayfield County are struggling to meet their housing needs. This is especially challenging in areas where resources are more limited, and projects might lack the scale that developers prefer. A housing shortage has negative effects on economic development and overall quality of life. Here are some steps your community can take to help meet this critical need in Bayfield County:

GET ORGANIZED.

Months 1 - 2

- Town Board forms a **Housing Steering Committee**, which will meet to discuss:
 - The housing needs of the community: Are there specific populations in need (seniors, veterans, etc.)? What *types* of housing? How many units?
 - Ideal locations – Consider zoning/future land use plans, proximity to existing infrastructure, and current land ownership.

GET TOGETHER.

Months 2 - 3

- **Committee shares a range of options with their Town Board** and gets initial feedback.
 - Which options are **most feasible**? Which ones can be eliminated or refined?
 - Town Board approves options to share for **public input**.

GATHER PUBLIC INPUT.

Month 4

- Committee prepares **visual representations** of housing development options and shares them with the broader community for feedback.
 - Incorporate the feedback and **prioritize the options with the most support** and that will **best meet local needs**.
 - Build consensus around **tangible action items**.

MAKE A PLAN.

Months 5 - 6

- The Committee will:
 - Establish a timeline with **short- and long-term goals for housing**.
 - Compile a list of **what your community has to offer** (available parcels, infrastructure, community support, etc.) in a development partnership.
 - Identify and enlist key players and potential funding sources.
 - Draft a Request for Proposals to share with developers.



New housing doesn't happen overnight. Communities that take the time to articulate their specific housing needs are more successful in attracting investors and developers that can help meet those needs.

Check out some of these helpful resources 

BAYFIELD COUNTY HOUSING RESOURCES

Thanks to a unique partnership between Bayfield County and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, the County is home to the first and only Housing Educator within the UW System. This pilot position means that Bayfield County communities can benefit from additional capacity and technical support at every step in the process of developing new housing – from assessing local needs and priorities, to building community support and crafting Requests for Proposals that attract the right partners to get the job done.



Information & Potential Funding Opportunities:

Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development
Authority (WHEDA)

www.wheda.com

Wisconsin Division of Energy, Housing, and
Community Resources

<https://energyandhousing.wi.gov/>

Wisconsin Office of Rural Prosperity

<https://ruralwi.com/>

USDA-Rural Development

www.rd.usda.gov/wi

Housing and Urban Development

www.hud.gov/hudprograms

Federal Housing Finance Agency

www.fhfa.gov

Housing Assistance Council:

<https://ruralhome.org/>



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
BAYFIELD COUNTY

WE CAN HELP

- Facilitate Community Meetings
- Assist With Action Planning
- Research Potential Funding Sources
- Deliver Public Presentations
- Draft Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

Questions?

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