Fair Housing Assessment

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Produced by the Mid-America Regional Council on behalf of the cities of Blue Springs, Independence and Kansas City, Missouri; the city of Leavenworth, Kansas; and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas. This assessment is required to meet Community Development Block Grant obligations for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
Section II
Community Participation Process

Various government agencies and nonprofit organizations in the Kansas City region are charged with monitoring, educating, enforcing and supporting fair housing activities in order to counter historical patterns of segregation and ongoing incidents of housing discrimination in the metropolitan area — and to boost access to opportunity and promote economic prosperity.

The five cities included in this plan worked in cooperation with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) to meet their community participation goals through a series of public meetings, including at least two rounds of public meetings in each community and information posted on websites. The public meetings have been advertised through websites, newspaper and radio advertisements, social media, distribution of fliers and announcements at other community meetings and events.

MARC also partnered with a group of community organizations that works together as the Regional Equity Network to invite community participation. These faith-based, neighborhood, and community development organizations helped to conduct outreach through canvassing, distribution of flyers and surveys at bus stops and community centers, and direct contact with residents. The Regional Equity Network developed an Equity Lens planning tool in 2014 to help communities achieve equitable growth and development. The tool may be found on the MARC website at www.marc.org/Regional-Planning/Creating-Sustainable-Places/Plans/Social-Equity. The Regional Equity Network includes representatives from the following organizations:

- Metropolitan Organization for Racial and Ethnic Equality (MORE2)
- Westside Housing Organization
- The Urban League
- The Upper Room
- Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council
- The Whole Person
- William Jewell College
- University of Missouri-Kansas City Urban Planning Program
- Kansas City, Missouri, Health Department
- Communities Creating Opportunity (CCO)
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Kansas City, MO Health Department

The Equity Network hired three fellows to support this plan’s development, focusing their work on Kansas City, Missouri. The Kansas City, Missouri, Human Relations Department trained the three fellows on May 5, 2016, about the federal Fair Housing Act. The fellows participated in the city's Civil Rights weekly radio show on July 18, 2016, to discuss the AFH Plan.
Outreach Activities

Each city amended its citizen participation plan to meet the new community participation requirements outlined in the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule and to provide opportunities through public meetings and input through websites and written surveys.

Participants at the first round of public meetings received copies of a four-page handout shown below, heard presentations about issues related to fair housing, and had an opportunity to discuss their concerns with staff from MARC and participating cities.
A schedule of public meetings and hearings is shown in the table below.

**Table 1: Public Meetings and Hearings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Round of Public Meetings/Hearings</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 20, 6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Kansas City, Missouri – 5th District</td>
<td>Mary Kelly Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 21, 6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Kansas City, Missouri – 4th District</td>
<td>Trinity United Methodist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 23, 7–9 p.m.</td>
<td>Leavenworth</td>
<td>Riverfront Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 28, 6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Kansas City, Missouri – 1st District</td>
<td>Northland Neighborhoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7, 6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Kansas City, Missouri – 2nd District</td>
<td>Gloria Dei Lutheran Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12, 6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Kansas City, Missouri – 6th District</td>
<td>Hillcrest Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16, 10 a.m.-noon</td>
<td>Kansas City, Missouri – 3rd District</td>
<td>Gregg Klice Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18, 6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Kansas City, Kansas</td>
<td>Northeast Resource Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19, 6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>Mid-Continent Public Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 20, 6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Independence Blue Springs</td>
<td>Howard Brown Public Safety Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 28, 6–8 p.m.</td>
<td>Equity Network – Spanish-speaking event</td>
<td>Posada Del Sol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second Round of Public Meetings/Hearings</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 16, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Kansas City, Kansas</td>
<td>KCK Public Library South Branch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 17, 6–7 p.m.</td>
<td>Kansas City, Kansas</td>
<td>Quindaro Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 18, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Leavenworth (public hearing)</td>
<td>Riverfront Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 22, 5:30–7 p.m.</td>
<td>Kansas City, Missouri (public hearing)</td>
<td>Southeast Community Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 23, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Independence (public hearing)</td>
<td>City Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 24, 4–6 p.m.</td>
<td>Blue Springs (public hearing)</td>
<td>Howard Brown Public Safety Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information and surveys were posted on the Mid-America Regional Council website at [www.marc.org/fairhousing](http://www.marc.org/fairhousing) and on the city of Kansas City, Missouri’s [www.kcmomentum.org](http://www.kcmomentum.org) website. Both websites included a survey to obtain public input. Fliers about the study and how input could be provided were distributed to community organizations and at city events. MARC received approximately 160 responses to the survey. Through [www.kcmomentum.org](http://www.kcmomentum.org), MARC received eight responses. These survey responses were tabulated and shared with city and Equity Network representatives as input to the plan.

**Advertising**

The media outlets outlined below were identified as those most likely to assist the cities in reaching diverse audiences and populations typically underrepresented in the planning process. Display advertisements were placed in English and Spanish in the print papers and English and Spanish radio advertisements were used with the two radio stations. Official public notices were published for each of the public hearings. News releases were also issued to provide information about the plan and publicize schedules for public meetings.

**Print Media**

MARC placed display advertisements in area newspapers as shown in the table below. Participating cities also placed public notices in their local newspapers as required for public meetings and hearings according to their public participation plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Target Audience/Area Served</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
<th>Dates Published or Scheduled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Kansas City Star</td>
<td>Entire metro (general circulation daily)</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>June 19, August 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dos Mundos</td>
<td>Weekly bilingual publication serving the Hispanic community</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>June 16, July 14, August 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KC Hispanic News</td>
<td>Weekly bilingual publication serving the Kansas City metro</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>June 23, July 14, August 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City Call</td>
<td>Weekly publication serving the black community</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>June 17, July 15, August 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City Globe</td>
<td>Weekly publication serving minority populations</td>
<td>94,500</td>
<td>June 16, July 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leavenworth Times</td>
<td>Published Tuesday-Saturday, serving Leavenworth, Kansas</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>June 18, August 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast News</td>
<td>Weekly publication serving the Northeast area (a diverse population with many recent immigrants)</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>June 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Fair Housing Assessment for Greater Kansas City  
Section II. Community Participation Process  
5
Sample ads (shown smaller than published size):
Radio ads were placed on KPRS, an FM station serving the black community, and on KDTD and KYYS, two AM stations serving the Spanish-speaking community. The thirty-second spots ran a total of 140 times between June 16 and July 10.

**English Radio Script:** Do you face challenges finding quality, affordable housing? Have you been denied housing based on your race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion or family status? If so, we want to hear from you! Join the City of Kansas City, Missouri at one of six upcoming public meetings to share your ideas about barriers to fair housing and ways the city could help. Visit m-a-r-c-dot-org-slash-fairhousing for a meeting schedule. Learn more about fair housing and how you can help the city take action.

**Spanish Radio Script:** A tenido desafíos encontrando una vivienda económica y de buena calidad? Le han negado la vivienda, basado en su raza, sexo, religión, orientación sexual, discapacidad o estatus familiar? Si es así, queremos escuchar sus experiencias. Únase a la ciudad de Kansas City Misuri, en una de las 6 próximas reuniones públicas para compartir sus ideas acerca de las barreras que existen e impiden encontrar una vivienda digna y formas en que la ciudad podría ayudar. Visita m-a-r-c-punto-org-barra-fairhousing (fer jausin) para ver el calendario de reuniones, y obtener más información acerca de que es un vivienda digna y cómo usted puede ayudar a la ciudad a tomar acción.

**Digital Advertising**

MARC placed digital ads targeted to internet users in zip codes where public meetings were scheduled, reaching 62,500 impressions between June 17 and July 15. Facebook and Twitter posts were also promoted to reach similar audiences.

Samples of Facebook posts:
Community Organization Outreach

The following organizations were invited and attended meetings and/or consulted during the community participation process.

- **Housing Counseling Agencies** — Housing Information Center of Greater Kansas City, CHES, Legal Aid of Western Missouri, Community Services League
- **Emergency Solution Grant-funded Agencies** — Community LINC, reStart, Kim Wilson Housing, Community Services League, Wyandot Center for Community and Behavioral Health, Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries, Truman Medical Center
- **Community Development Corporations and Economic Development Groups** — Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, Blue Hills Community Services Corporation, Westside Housing Organization, Habitat for Humanity, CHWC, Northwest Independence CDC, Builders Development Corporation, LISC, NeighborWorks, Twelfth Street Heritage Corporation, Hardesty Renaissance EDC, Heartland Black Chamber, Downtown Shareholders of Kansas City, Kansas, Argentine Betterment Corporation, Northeast (KCKS) Economic Development Corporation, Kansas City, Kansas Black Chamber
- **Regional Equity Network** — MORE2 (faith-based), Urban League of Greater Kansas City, Mattie Rhodes Center, Westside Housing Organization, Front Porch Alliance, The Whole Person, LISC, William Jewell College, UMKC School of Planning, Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, Kansas City, MO Health Department
- **Agencies serving disabled populations** — The Whole Person, Coalition for Independence, Mid-America Alliance for Access
- **Public Housing Authorities** — Kansas City, MO PHA; Kansas City, Kansas PHA; Independence PHA; and Leavenworth, Kansas PHA, Smithville PHA, Excelsior Springs PHA, Lee’s Summit PHA, Olathe, Kansas PHA
- **School Officials** — Kansas City, MO School District, Hickman Mills School District, Blue Springs School District, Cooperating School Districts of the Kansas City Area
• **Other** — Missouri Commission on Human Rights, Missouri Housing Development Commission, UMKC, Independence Hungry and Homeless Coalition, FDIC, Kansas City Land Bank, Missouri Department of Mental Health, Veterans Administration, Leavenworth United Way, Kansas City Star

**Public Feedback Received**

Overall, the public meetings and surveys elicited strong response from area residents, with low participation at the first public meeting in Blue Springs despite efforts to encourage resident participation through a press release, paid media advertising and flyer distribution to agencies and postings at public locations. The following is a summary of all comments received in June and July 2016.

**Comments through online surveys and surveys returned at meetings**

The comments below were received from 164 residents of the following zip codes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZIP CODES</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64029 –1</td>
<td>64114 – 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64034 –1</td>
<td>64116 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64050 –1</td>
<td>64117 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64052 –2</td>
<td>64118 – 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64055 –2</td>
<td>64119 – 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64068 –2</td>
<td>64123 – 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64077 –2</td>
<td>64124 – 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64083 –2</td>
<td>64127 – 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64089 –1</td>
<td>64128 – 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64100 –1</td>
<td>64129 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64105 –1</td>
<td>64130 – 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64106 –4</td>
<td>64131 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64108 –5</td>
<td>64132 – 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64109 –10</td>
<td>64133 – 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64110 –4</td>
<td>64134 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64111 –1</td>
<td>64137 –3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64112 –1</td>
<td>64138 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64113 –3</td>
<td>64139 –1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most important housing and neighborhood features:

- Safety
- Housing in your price range
- Housing near your job
- Housing near good schools
Barriers/Obstacles to achieving your housing goals:
  • Cost of housing
  • Other factors
  • Location of jobs

What would improve your housing situation?
  • Lower cost of housing to make living expenses more affordable
  • Safe neighborhoods
  • Access to public transportation
  • Near jobs

What could your city do to improve your housing situation?
  • Support the availability of more affordable housing units
  • Increase neighborhood safety
  • Require landlords to make accessibility improvements
  • Improve public transit

Do you know what rights are protected under the Fair Housing Act?
  • Yes  43%
  • No  57%

Have you ever felt that you were not treated fairly due to:
  • Age  41%
  • Race/Color  50%
  • Sex  22%

Comments from June 20 Public Meeting (KCMO District 5 — four table discussions)

Most important housing and neighborhood features:
  • Community assets, including good schools, grocery, public facilities
  • Safety
  • In your price range – quality affordable housing that meets family needs
  • Near to jobs and availability of public transportation

Top three obstacles:
  • Price range of housing/affordability
  • Vacant homes, no sidewalks
  • Racial tension, slow police response times
  • Public transportation service limited

What could your city do?
  • Support more affordable workforce housing
  • Repurpose vacant housing
  • Install sidewalks
  • Address absentee and problem landlords
• Encourage more goods and services to be available

**Comments from June 21 Public Meeting (KCMO District 4 — three table discussions)**

Most important housing and neighborhood features:
- Safety
- Affordability, in your price range
- More amenities, goods and services
- Diversity

Top three obstacles:
- Affordability issues, including maintenance of homes, credit problems
- Lack of good public transportation
- Availability of services and goods
- Problems ex-felons face in finding housing

What could your city do?
- Financial incentives, mixed income housing
- Address landlord-tenant issues
- Help with improving credit scores

**Comments from June 23 Public Meeting (Leavenworth — four table discussions)**

Most important housing and neighborhood features:
- Affordability, in your price range – limited supply of rental housing
- Safety
- Transportation access, particularly to jobs and services
- Accessibility, both sidewalks and housing
- Access to community facilities and shops

Top 3 obstacles:
- Cost of housing, lack of income, households without jobs
- Property condition, lack of ability to address problem landlords
- Difficulty in qualifying for loans to become homeowners

What could your city do?
- Improve property maintenance code inspections
- Improve rental licensing requirements to address problem landlords
- Encourage new multi-unit housing development
- Improve public transportation

**Comments from June 28 Public Meeting (KCMO District 1 — three table discussions)**

Most important housing and neighborhood features:
- Safety
- Affordable housing, in your price range
• Transportation, access to jobs
• Availability of community assets

Top three obstacles:
• Limited affordable housing options
• Income requirements not flexible to help those who try to increase their earnings
• Lack of public transportation, access to jobs
• Absentee landlords and lack of maintenance of rental units

What could your city do?
• Increase job opportunities in neighborhood and improve public transportation
• Improve relationships between residents and police
• Improve mental health services
• Help strengthen community organizations, build community
• Improve code enforcement

Comments from July 7 Public Meeting (KCMO District 2)

Most important housing and neighborhood features:
• Safety
• Near community facilities and services
• Near good schools
• Affordability of housing

Top three obstacles:
• Increases in rent
• Not enough information on ADA accessibility
• Lack of public city support
• No networking/community services

What could your city do?
• More community awareness and information about resources 211/311
• Tax incentive for hiring within the neighborhood
• City funding for entrepreneurs
• Assisting tenants in addressing their rights
• Rent control
• Educational programs

Comments from July 12 Public Meeting (KCMO District 6 — two table discussions)

Most important housing and neighborhood features:
• Diversity
• Affordable housing in your price range
• Public transportation
• Safety
Near good schools

Top three obstacles:
- Limited public transportation
- Limited community facilities and services, grocery store
- Crime
- Absentee landlords and lack of property maintenance
- Rental housing background checks
- Accessible housing

What could your city do?
- Encourage more businesses with goods and services
- Help ex-felons to secure housing
- Provide assistance in securing jobs, child care

Comments from July 16 Public Meeting (KCMO District 3 — six table discussions)

Most important housing and neighborhood features:
- Safety
- Public transportation
- Community facilities and services

Top three obstacles:
- Lack of affordable housing both rental and for purchase
- Lack of community facilities and services
- Landlords refuse to rent to ex-felons, problem of past credit history
- Gentrification causing rent increases
- Limited public transportation
- Discrimination of women in securing rental housing
- Crime and cost of insurance

What could your city do?
- Increase code inspection on rental property, particularly absentee landlords
- Address lack of credit
- Improve public transportation, particularly for shift work
- Encourage mixed income housing
- Address minimum wage and support higher paying jobs in inner city
- Seek increase in fair market rents
- Address eviction problem by making it more difficult for landlords to evict tenants

Comments from July 18 Public Meeting (KCK — three table discussions)

Most important housing and neighborhood features:
- Affordable housing in your price range
- Safety
• Public transportation, particularly to jobs
• Sidewalks/trails and other community facilities
• Diversity

Top three obstacles:
• Lack of affordable housing
• Lack of public transportation
• Problem with ex-felons, poor credit history/eviction in renting housing
• Housing repairs needed for older homeowners
• Community opposition

What could your city do?
• Create incentives to encourage developers to build affordable housing
• Improve public transportation service
• Address crime/safety
• Address vacant housing and change laws to better protect tenants
• Consider “tiny” houses

Comments from July 19 Public Meeting (Independence — three table discussions)

Most important housing and neighborhood features:
• Safety
• Affordability, in your price range
• Diversity
• Near community facilities and services
• Near good schools

Top three obstacles:
• Lack of income
• Crime
• Lack of public transportation, particularly to jobs
• Lack of sidewalks
• Discrimination/Community Opposition
• Hard to find suitable housing for voucher holders

What could your city do?
• Improve public transportation services
• Pursue Section 8 self-sufficiency program
• Provide counseling/training to assist residents to secure jobs, tenant responsibilities
• Address predatory lending
• Develop city plans for neighborhoods, promote historic preservation
• Encourage starter homes for young families

The second round of meetings were conducted in late August and early September. These
meeting and public hearings gathered information on goals and strategies drafted from the information received during the first round of engagements. Much of the time was spent building consensus on the goals and strategies as well as adding additional goals citizens believed addressed the needs of protected classes in the communities. The following goals and strategies were identified as priorities at the various meetings.

**Comments from July 28 Spanish Public Meeting hosted by Westside Housing at Posada del Sol**

Public Comments (translated from Spanish to English)

Most important features to include in your ideal housing situation?
- Safety, accessibility features for the disabled, locate near parks, shopping malls, buses and sidewalks.
- Seniors value safety because of illness, age and disability.
- Seniors/people need access to easier mobility and adapt to their needs.
- ADA accessibility allows seniors to age in place and stay in their homes.
- Seniors don’t make a lot of income. People don’t want to be in debt.
- Need a library nearby to access books and culture.
- Since there is a lack of transportation, have resources close by is important.

What are the three obstacles stopping you from living where you want? Why?
- Money, low wages. Family and work large distance from each other
- Price range, limited medical assistance availability, doesn’t fit my family, isn’t close to my family, not accessible.
- Money, lack of income, housing in your price range.
- Having a job within the limits of the city.
- Age. It’s harder for seniors to move. Illness is an issue.
- Lack of medical/nursing assistance.
- ADA accessibility; transportation, lack of routes, frequency and stops.

How could your community fix the housing obstacles you, your family and friends face?
- Build more Section 8 housing; improve the educational system and not limit school selection to where you live; make universities public; offer free public transportation, more grocery stores and laundry mats.
- Modernize the county government; have government be accessible in more convenient locations; provide more information about the community to residents about resources and services.
- Have more supervision by authority over housing conditions to ensure they function well.
- Increase availability of medical nurses; offer store delivery for the elderly; have more police officers around; create a shopping market and grocery store close by; build parks and sidewalks for ADA accessibility.
- Locate an affordable grocery store in this community.
- Provide transportation to the stores nearby.
- Offer more ADA accessible housing.
• Offer more options for the elderly, more resources to help look for other housing options.
• Create job opportunities within the city limits.

Second Round of Public Meetings
A second set of public meetings were held in August and September to review the findings from the first round of meetings and draft goals and strategies. The public provided feedback on those goals and strategies that could be most important to addressing the challenges they identified earlier.

Goals and strategies August 22 Public Meeting (KCMO Districts 3&5)
- Increase Access to Affordable housing in opportunity areas
  - Explore a regional housing voucher program
  - Evaluate new options for rental housing
  - Require projects that receive financial incentives to help increase the amount of quality affordable housing
  - Examine the possibility of using a regional housing locator service
- Reduce Discrimination
  - Develop education on the fair housing act and local fair housing laws
- Improve housing conditions and options for homeowners
  - Support the minor home repair needs
  - Review property maintenance codes and identify resource
  - Organize a model black program in select neighborhood
- Increase access to economic opportunity for disadvantaged persons and families
  - Encourage and promote career prep opportunities
  - Promote programs that help residents increase their skills
  - Consider giving a second change to ex-offenders
  - Review economic development policies
Expand public transportation services
  Update the KC Metro’s long-range plan

Goals and strategies August 31 Public Meeting (KCMO Districts 6&4)
  Increase Access to Affordable housing in opportunity areas
    Require projects that receive financial incentives to help increase the amount of
    quality affordable housing
  Improve housing conditions and options for homeowners
    Support the minor home repair needs

Goals and strategies September 1 Public Meeting (KCMO Districts 1&2)
  Raise public understanding and awareness of the need for affordable housing
    Identify targets for measuring progress on affirmatively furthering fair housing
    and access to opportunities
  Increase Access to Affordable housing in opportunity areas
    Require projects that receive financial incentives to help increase the amount of
    quality affordable housing
    Evaluate new options for rental housing
  Improve housing conditions and options for homeowners
    Support the minor home repair needs
  Reduce Discrimination
  Promote kcmetrohousing.org

Goals and strategies August 18 Public Meeting (Leavenworth, Kansas)
  Reduce Discrimination
    Promote kcmetrohousing.org
    Enhance fair housing services
  Increase Access to Affordable housing in opportunity areas
    Explore a regional housing voucher program
    Revise zoning regulation and examine building codes
    Examine the possibility of using a regional housing locater service
  Improve housing conditions and options for rental households
    Create a rental fund
    Encourage the University of Missouri-Kansas City’s Center for Neighborhoods to
    help community development corporations develop affordable housing in more
    areas
    Consider adopting codes and building a rental housing licensing program
  Increase access to economic opportunity for disadvantaged persons
    Keep and expand jobs in the KC Metro’s growing industries
  Increase the amount of affordable and accessible housing
    Review building codes to determine how the needs of disabled persons are
    addressed
    ADA accessibility and design standards that benefit older people
Goals and strategies August 24 Public Meeting (Blue Springs, Missouri)

The public discussion resulted in the identification of eight strategies as most important. They included:

1. Examine waiting lists and create a homeless prevention effort that addresses household housing issues quickly.
2. Support the minor home repair needs of low income and elderly residents by increasing funding so more homes can be fixed.
3. Create “villages” in neighborhoods with high numbers of older adults so services can be provided to them and they can continue to live independently.
4. Make residents aware of adult literacy programs that can help them pursue a high school diploma.
5. Promote programs that help residents increase their skills and career potential and offer tuition benefits for employees.
6. Support high quality early education, such as preschool education for all families to meet the needs of all young children and their families.
7. Expand the number of low income working families that can access quality early education for their children through age 8.
8. Support expanding special K-12 programs to help students attending schools in concentrated areas of poverty and persons of color.

Each city publicized a public hearing to solicit comments on the draft AFH plan. The cities of Independence and Kansas City, Kansas, held public hearings in front of their city council/city commission. No citizen input was formally collected at the meetings.