

AFFORDABLE HOUSING COUNCIL STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

Mission Statement: to advocate for the preservation and expansion of safe, decent, and affordable housing opportunities in Frederick County, Maryland

Short Term = 6 to 12 months

Mid Term = 1 to 2 years

Long Term = 3 to 5 years

Strategic Plan Goal	Action Steps/Time Frame
<p>Goal #1: Foster Opportunities for Affordable Housing Growth</p> <p>Objective #1: Collaborate with government entities to encourage inclusion of affordable housing options in land use and development.</p> <p>Objective #2: Examine current laws and regulations to identify barriers to affordable housing and provide recommendations.</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact county and municipal housing, planning, and community development staff to introduce AHC members and establish a relationship. 2. Work with staff to examine regulations and explore best practices from around the state, county and internationally. <p>Mid Term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify specific regulations with input from staff that act as an impediment to affordable development. 2. Draft recommendations with input from staff on regulation or law changes. 3. Advocate for specific changes through contact with elected officials and civic and community groups. <p>Long Term</p> <p>Review effectiveness of the altered laws and regulations, the methods used to achieve the aforementioned changes, and the AHC as a whole.</p>
<p>Goal #2: Build Partnerships and Engage Stakeholders</p> <p>Objective #1: Participate with public and private planning entities, community groups, and other agencies that are involved in housing services, housing counseling and education, and economic support opportunities.</p> <p>Objective #2: Collaborate with the business community to identify commercial properties with potential for affordable residential components for development and rehabilitation of affordable housing.</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify Council members to attend meetings of housing related entities and groups such as East Frederick Rising, Golden Mile Alliance, Frederick Coalition for the Homeless, Commission on Aging, Chamber, Business Development Board, United Way, Downtown Frederick Partnership, etc. to advocate for and learn of potential affordable housing opportunities. 2. Conduct assessment of developers' needs/ideas relative to increasing affordable housing options. 3. Conduct assessment of potential projects. <p>Mid Term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct an assessment of local resources and needs for affordable housing, also utilizing information from others that have been developed. 2. Identify and provide advocacy for the highest level needs as determined by the needs assessment, focusing on creative partnerships with entities that can leverage land/sites. 3. Review effectiveness of AHC's efforts. <p>Long Term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From the assessment, identify developers and community/government entities to work together with the AHC to meet objective #2, focusing on a limited number of properties/areas. 2. Review effectiveness of AHC's efforts.
<p>Goal #3: Build Community Acceptance and Support</p> <p>Objective #1: Enhance and provide opportunities for education and outreach</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research community benefits of affordable housing and compile statistics to support those benefits. 2. Research best practices for counteracting negative stereotypes often associated with affordable housing. 3. Identify and form relationships with civic, business, and neighborhood groups as well as social service providers operating in the affordable housing arena. 4. Develop a community-oriented, Frederick-specific presentation. 5. Determine most appropriate audiences and begin to make public presentations.

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<p>Objective #2: Engage with civic, business, and neighborhood groups to promote the communitywide benefits of affordable housing.</p>	<p>Mid Term/Long Term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue researching community benefits of and compiling statistics for affordable housing. 2. Continuing making public presentations. 3. Continue collaborating with civic, business, neighborhood groups, and relevant social service providers. 4. Publicize wider grassroots support for affordable housing in the community.
<p>Goal #4: Promote Economically Viable and Livable Communities</p> <p>Objective #1: Advocate for planning policies that support mixed use development that includes diverse housing stock, multi-modal transportation networks, energy conservation and efficiency, open spaces, and similar principles.</p> <p>Objective #2: Identify, encourage, and advocate for projects that foster community development.</p>	<p>Short Term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attend meetings of Planning Commissions to advocate for planning policies that support and entice mixed use mixed income affordable housing development. 2. Attend meetings of East Frederick Rising, the Golden Mile Alliance, and other similar groups to promote the ideas of having a diverse housing stock, multi-modal transportation networks, energy conservation and efficiency, open spaces, and similar spaces of mixed use mixed income development with walkable access to transportation hubs and community amenities. 3. Research potential sites, such as dilapidated downtown buildings. 4. Discuss potential sites with housing groups and other potential partners such as Downtown Frederick Partnership and Hood College. <p>Mid Term/Long Term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue advocacy and outreach to potential new partners, especially commercial, faith based and government entities for land or sites. 2. Continue to research best practices and incorporate into the AHC Strategic Plan. 3. Review and update AHC Strategic Plan at the annual meeting of the AHC.