

Anticipated Activities: Park County Housing Working Group

We propose to hold three or four work sessions with the working group, once per month in February, March, April, and May.

- All sessions will be scheduled for 2-3 hours.
- Prior to each work session, working group participants will receive a summary of the prior work session, information collected in the housing needs assessment related to the work session topic, and questions to help prepare participants for each session.
- We anticipate a commitment of approximately 12 hours (both in and out of meetings) in service to the Housing Working Group.
- Members of the Housing Working Group will be making a commitment to leverage your skills and expertise in supporting the Working Group to develop actionable strategies for up to ten prioritized tools for impacting housing options in Park County. Towards this goal, we will be relying on your willingness to be present, learn, be creative and work hard.

The purpose of each proposed work session is as follows:

First Session. Tool Identification and Prioritization (two hours)

We will be providing observations of useful tools and strategies as part of the housing needs assessment to illustrate housing needs. We will use this and the toolbox provided at the kick-off as a base to begin discussions on suitable housing tools for the area. Tools typically fall into several categories and may include, for example: incentives, regulations, partnerships, housing preservation/rehabilitation, funding and state/federal housing programs. We will seek input from the experience of working group participants to identify additional tools for consideration and begin prioritizing tools for exploration in the next work session: strategy development.

Second Session. Strategy Refinement of Prioritized Tools (three hours)

We will help the working group develop actionable strategies for up to ten prioritized tools. Information will be provided to the working group for each tool, identifying:

- Issues unique to Park County and considerations for implementation
- Population that will be targeted by own/rent and income level
- Potential sources of funding
- General consideration in implementation

We will discuss with the working group any additions to the provided information, as well as:

- Steps/tasks needed to implement
- Timeline for implementation
- Resources available and/or needed (land, staffing, collaboration)
- Implementation roles and responsibilities (who should be involved)

HRDC will also provide an opportunity to again review tools that did not make the top ten to see if any changes should occur.

Third Session. Strategy Refinement; Financing; Timeline; Responsibilities (two hours)

We will revisit and verify strategy and policy prioritization from the prior sessions. We will present and discuss information on available or potential financing for each strategy; establish a timeline for implementation, recognizing that some strategies may be easier to implement than others or require more immediate action than other strategies; and assign responsibilities, recognizing that some tasks may be best implemented and/or managed by different parties.

Fourth Session (if needed). Group work to address any remaining issues or concerns (two hours)

Goals & Objectives of the Park County Housing Working Group:

The objective of the Housing Working Group is to define an action plan with clear goals and objectives, strategies and policies, financing mechanisms, timeline for achievement and responsible parties. The plan will also define a mechanism to monitor progress and an update process so that the plan can evolve with housing needs over the long term.

The Park County Housing Working Group approach will use the facilitator's expertise to educate the working group as to various housing tools, strategies and options, in addition to housing program structures and management techniques. The members of Housing Working Group working group will ultimately make the decisions as to which tools to pursue, who will be responsible for implementation, how these tools will be implemented, and on what timeline. This process requires time and commitment from the working group, along with a willingness to be present, learn, be creative and work hard. While we understand that this approach will take longer and will require more of a time commitment from all parties involved, we believe it will result in a plan that is grounded in the local realities, understood by the participating parties, and will therefore be much more likely to be implemented.

Process for participating in the Park County Housing Working Group:

1. Complete a brief Expression of Interest questionnaire, similar to what is used by both Park County and the City of Livingston for selecting members of volunteer boards and commissions. Questionnaires will be available on November 2nd and can be completed either online or in a hard copy format.
2. If completing a hard copy of the questionnaire, return c/o the Park County Community Foundation by mail to PO Box 2199 Livingston, MT 59047 or by dropping it off in the office mail slot at 212 E. Callender St.
3. Proposed dates & times for meeting sessions of the Housing Working Group are as follows: the 2nd Thursday: Feb 11th, Mar 11th, April 8th, May 13th. All meetings will start at 3:30 pm.
4. Expression of Interest questionnaires must be received by close of business on Mon, November 16th, 2020.
5. Questionnaires will be reviewed by the Co-Facilitators of the Park County Housing Coalition: Brian Guyer and Barb Oldershaw, with additional input as needed from their organizational colleagues at HRDC and the Park County Community Foundation. We hope to assemble 8-10 members that encompass a cross-section of geographic location, work experience, and stakeholder position. We are also seeking demonstrated interest in and commitment to public process and collaborative problem solving.
6. Decisions will be announced by December 16th, 2020. Working sessions will commence in February 2021.