INTRODUCTION

Iowa City community appears in the ranks of top for "Best Small Towns" and "Best Places to Live." It boasts a vibrant culture that is greatly augmented by the University Impact Area. This area of increased renter demand has been dubbed, "the best little college town in the Midwest." The demand from students wishing to live near UI campus has led to renter-occupied housing near the University. Despite its high scores and robust city center teeming with shops, restaurants, bars, galleries, and music venues, Iowa City has a problem of inequitable access to affordable housing.

EXAMINING THE PROBLEM

Cost Burdened Renters in Iowa City 
Existing Housing (2014) and Unique 

Sharing a narrative of housing in Iowa City, a collection of Iowa City populations. To maintain healthy neighborhoods that appeal to diverse and develop recommendations that will help the City in neighborhoods—old and new. In anticipation of greater plan envisions diverse and affordable housing in all of creating becoming more inclusive, and the comprehensive University Impact Area.

KEY POINTS

Historic Narrative

Neighborhoods have more than doubled in size since the early 1970s.

- A shift to renter-occupied housing near the University.

- Overall population growth in the metropolitan area is predicted to continue.

- Housing has become more diverse and affordable.

Developers Perspective

- Formal development processes are necessary to maintain neighborhood sense of place.

- Affordable housing projects are needed moving forward.

Opportunities

- Allow more flexibility for housing types in existing neighborhood.

- Increase affordability and diversify development and housing options.

Strategies and Comparative Cities

- Create development zones to keep adding supply.

- Aligning City funding programs with tax credit schedule.

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- Introducing land banking as a means to buy up property, and eventually convey to affordable housing developers.

- Funding a bank for affordable housing developments.

Creating a Shared Understanding

Iowa City renters are becoming increasingly cost burdened.

Creating a shared narrative of housing in Iowa City, a collection of Iowa City populations. To maintain healthy neighborhoods that appeal to diverse and develop recommendations that will help the City in neighborhoods—old and new. In anticipation of greater plan envisions diverse and affordable housing in all of creating becoming more inclusive, and the comprehensive University Impact Area.

CASE STUDIES

MADISON, WISCONSIN

Key Statistics:

- $85,000 Median household income
- 18 percent of households are cost burdened
- Affordability is the key issue impacting equity and this report is aimed at helping housing professionals to be proactive in examining equity and developing strategies to address the problem unique to Iowa City and identified three key opportunities.

Strategies Applicable to Iowa City:

- Creating development zones to keep adding supply
- Aligning City funding programs with tax credit schedules
- Introducing land banking as a means to buy up property, and eventually convey to affordable housing developers
- Funding a bank for affordable housing developments

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Key Statistics:

- Median household income $60,000
- 12 percent of households are cost burdened
- The ann Arbor initiative recently launched in Johnson County.

Strategies Applicable to Iowa City:

- Recruit developers to apply for LIHTC
- Aligning City funding programs with tax credit schedules
- Introducing land banking as a means to buy up property, and eventually convey to affordable housing developers
- Funding a bank for affordable housing developments

CONCLUSION

In light of increasing inequity nationally, it is critical for planning professionals in the province to be proactive in examining equity and developing strategies to address the problem unique to Iowa City and identified three key opportunities.

For Profit Developers

- Subdivision regulations can exclude nonprofits
- NIMBYism is a challenge in neighborhoods
- Planned Developments can be costly
- High design standards are in the public interest
- Partnerships are needed

Nonprofit Developers

- Affordability is the key issue impacting equity and this report is aimed at helping housing professionals to be proactive in examining equity and developing strategies to address the problem unique to Iowa City and identified three key opportunities.

Special thanks to our community partners:

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