



ALLIANCE FOR EQUITABLE HOUSING

**Progress
Report
2022**

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Letter From the Alliance for Equitable Housing

Dear Linn County Neighbors,

In Linn County, we have great schools, great jobs, delicious local restaurants, and plenty of recreational areas and bike trails to enjoy while maintaining our neighborly ways. We all want Linn County to remain the place where we grew up and where people choose to raise their families. With the cost of living rising rapidly, and the economic impacts of Covid-19 and the August 2020 derecho looming large, our ability to secure that future is at risk.

We must work together to make sure Linn County residents don't get priced out and people at all income levels can find a great place to live. We must act to ensure prosperity for our county and make our housing stock meet the needs of the future, which is why the Alliance for Equitable Housing was created – to establish the framework to make progress to meet those needs.

We commit to making the voice of the community the key driver in this work.

We are committed to this work, but we cannot do it alone. We need everyone involved to create the future we want for Linn County. We are determined to understand the true situation on the ground, looking beyond the data, and meeting our communities where they are.

We commit to being efficient and to always leverage existing work first.

We are committed to leveraging and aligning existing efforts to ensure we make progress toward common goals and do not duplicate work. We commit to playing to the strengths of the community to make progress better and faster.

We commit to being accountable and to keeping the work actionable.

We are committed to developing obtainable goals and tangible action steps through collaborative action planning groups with a focus on what is achievable and impactful. This will not be a report that is 'placed on a shelf'. We will identify real and pragmatic solutions to resolve key issues identified by residents and public, private, and nonprofit stakeholders.

The Alliance for Equitable Housing and action planning groups are working together to identify solutions that address immediate needs while making plans to solve issues for the long term. Action planning groups are charged with identifying solutions and the Alliance for Equitable Housing will help make them a reality. Together, as Linn County and the Alliance for Equitable Housing, we will make progress to address the housing issues facing our community and threatening our future. Together, we will achieve our desired future.

Sincerely,

The Alliance for Equitable Housing

Founding Members



Introduction

The Alliance for Equitable Housing is a multi-jurisdictional collaboration—led by Linn County—among cities, local funders, advocacy groups, and nonprofits working in the housing system. The Alliance for Equitable Housing is developing a comprehensive housing solutions plan with tangible action steps to identify solutions for each of the housing issues identified by the community.

In the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, a derecho devastated Linn County in August 2020. This disaster compounded existing housing issues already strained by the pandemic. As the Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster (LAP-AID) worked to identify and fill gaps through disaster response, they continuously identified housing as a significant issue without a good solution. A group of housing experts convened in response to the disasters to address the ongoing housing issues in Linn County. This group quickly identified that they did not have a full understanding of the key housing issues because of the changing landscape. The first step taken by this group was to go to the community to gain a fuller understanding of the situation on the ground.

The Alliance set out to speak with a variety of collaborative community groups consisting largely of direct service providers as well as experts in the field to conduct a SWOT analysis and identify the key housing issues faced by the community. While conversations with community groups are ongoing, below is a summary list of the preliminary conversations used develop the SWOT analysis and issues identified.

4/8/21	PATCH Mobile Homes Subcommittee	6/4/21	Derecho Long Term Recovery
5/13/21	Task Force on Aging	6/7/21	PADS (Peer Action Disability & Support)
5/19/21	CoC Community Shelter & Wellness Coalition	6/10/21	Stepping Up
5/19/21	CoC Supportive Housing Committee	6/10/21	Area Hospitals Meeting
5/20/21	Catherine McAuley Center Women's Services	6/10/21	Linn County Continuum of Care Leadership
5/21/21	Economic Development Innovation Council	6/16/21	Refugee & Immigrant Alliance
5/21/21	Linn County City Clerks	10/19/21	Marion Alliance for Racial Equity (MARE)
5/27/21	Cedar Rapids Affordable Housing Commission	10/20/21	Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission
6/2/21	Rent & Utility Collaboration	3/2/22	Advocates for Social Justice (ASJ)
6/3/21	Housing Fund for Linn County Board		

Introduction

Timeline of Activity

JANUARY
2021



Call to Action

LAP-AID identifies housing as a central issue post disaster and call for more investigation into the issues and what can be done to address them.

MARCH
2021



Alliance for Equitable Housing Forms

The Alliance meets and decides that we need to hear from community about what the keys issues are on the ground.

APRIL -
DECEMBER
2021



Community Conversations

Leveraging existing collaborative groups and direct service providers, the Alliance conducted community conversations to complete a SWOT analysis and identify key housing issues.

JANUARY - APRIL
2022



Identify Framework

Knowing the context we will be working in and the central issues, the Alliance identifies the best way to move this work forward that leverages existing resources and is thoughtful about staff capacity issues.

MAY - NOW
2022

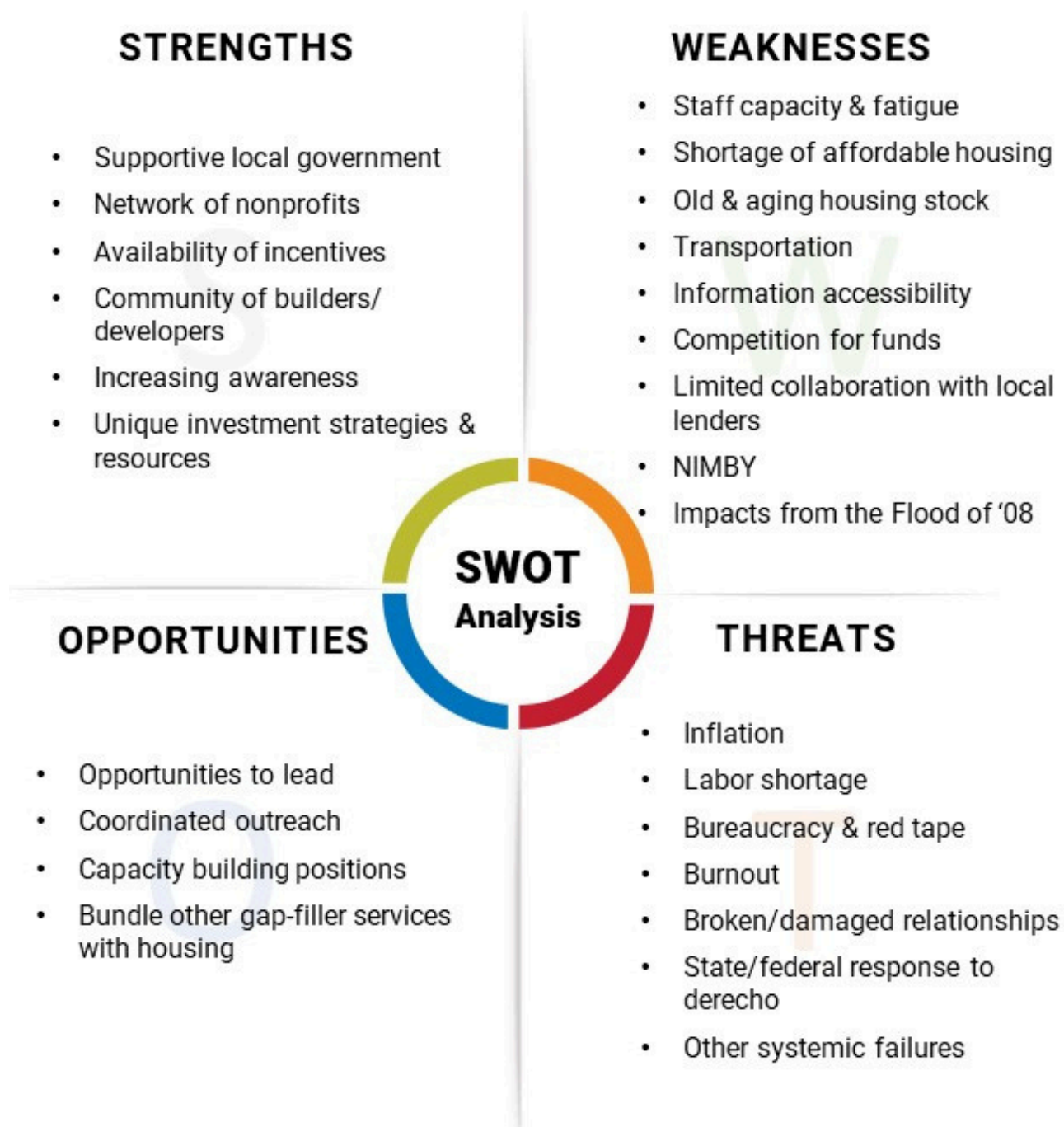


Take Action

Action planning groups are working to identify tangible and actionable steps.

SWOT Analysis

The SWOT analysis yielded key takeaways. There is high confidence in the community due to the strengths of our institutions. Staff capacity is a persistent concern, but it and other existing challenges have been worsened by the dual crises of 2020. These issues are not unique to Linn County and there are opportunities to learn and partner with other communities.



Key Issues Identified

While there were many issues that were identified through community conversation, they generally fell into four key categories. These issues are inherently interconnected and mutually impactful; all the pieces must be accounted for to achieve the whole.



Housing Quality, Energy Efficiency, Resiliency

The top issue the Alliance identified through community conversations is poor housing quality. Unless steps are taken to preserve and maintain existing housing stock through resiliency-conscious practices, we will continue to lose housing. This will exacerbate an already tight housing market.



Scarcity of Units

Community conversations also identified a historical lack of affordable housing as a significant issue in the community. This was made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic and the August 2020 derecho, creating scarcity across the full income spectrum.



Access to Housing & Homelessness

With scarcity in the housing market, those with challenging backgrounds including poor credit history, eviction history, or low income have a very difficult time competing for available units. When competition is tough, people either need to relocate to another community or are faced with homelessness.



Equity

The housing issues identified above will have different impacts and meaning based upon a person's race, ethnicity, gender, age, and/or disability. The issue of housing equity in Linn County was noted repeatedly through conversations particularly for seniors, persons with a disability, immigrant and refugee populations, and people of color.

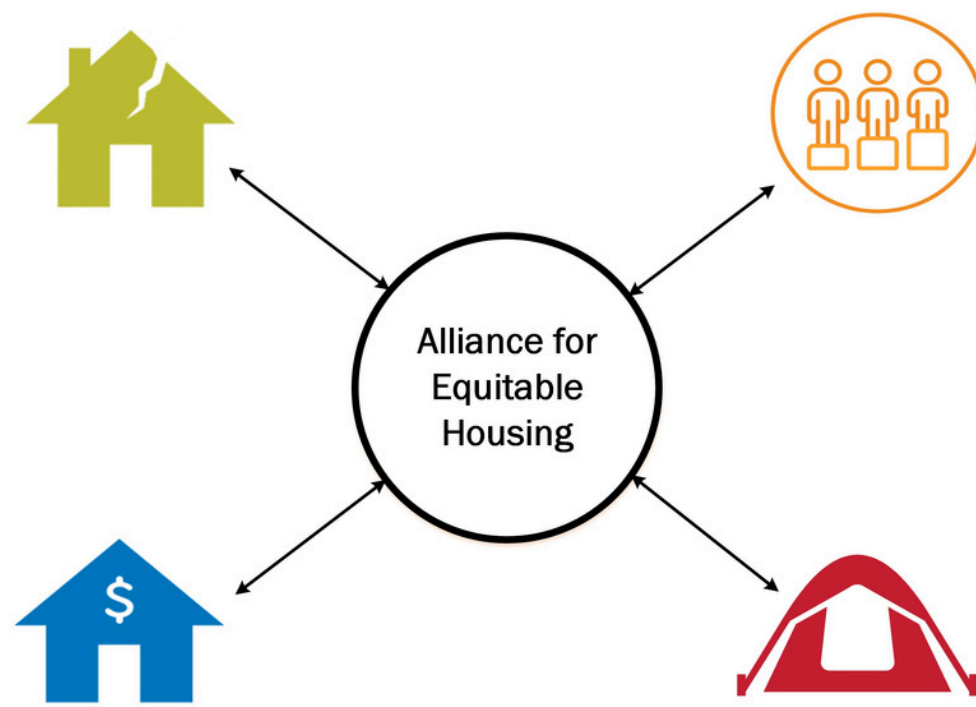
The Framework

The Alliance for Equitable Housing is made up of four action planning groups designed to work on the community-identified key issues.

The Alliance for Equitable Housing has identified a framework that allows the community to address the key issues simultaneously through dedicated action planning groups. These groups work in the short, medium, and long-term to both address urgent needs while working toward long-term solutions to systemic problems. For example, within the Access to Housing workgroups there is a balance between short-term solutions, such as maintaining shelter capacity to keep homeless individuals safe, and long-term problem solving to identify housing solutions to promote stability and keep people housed.

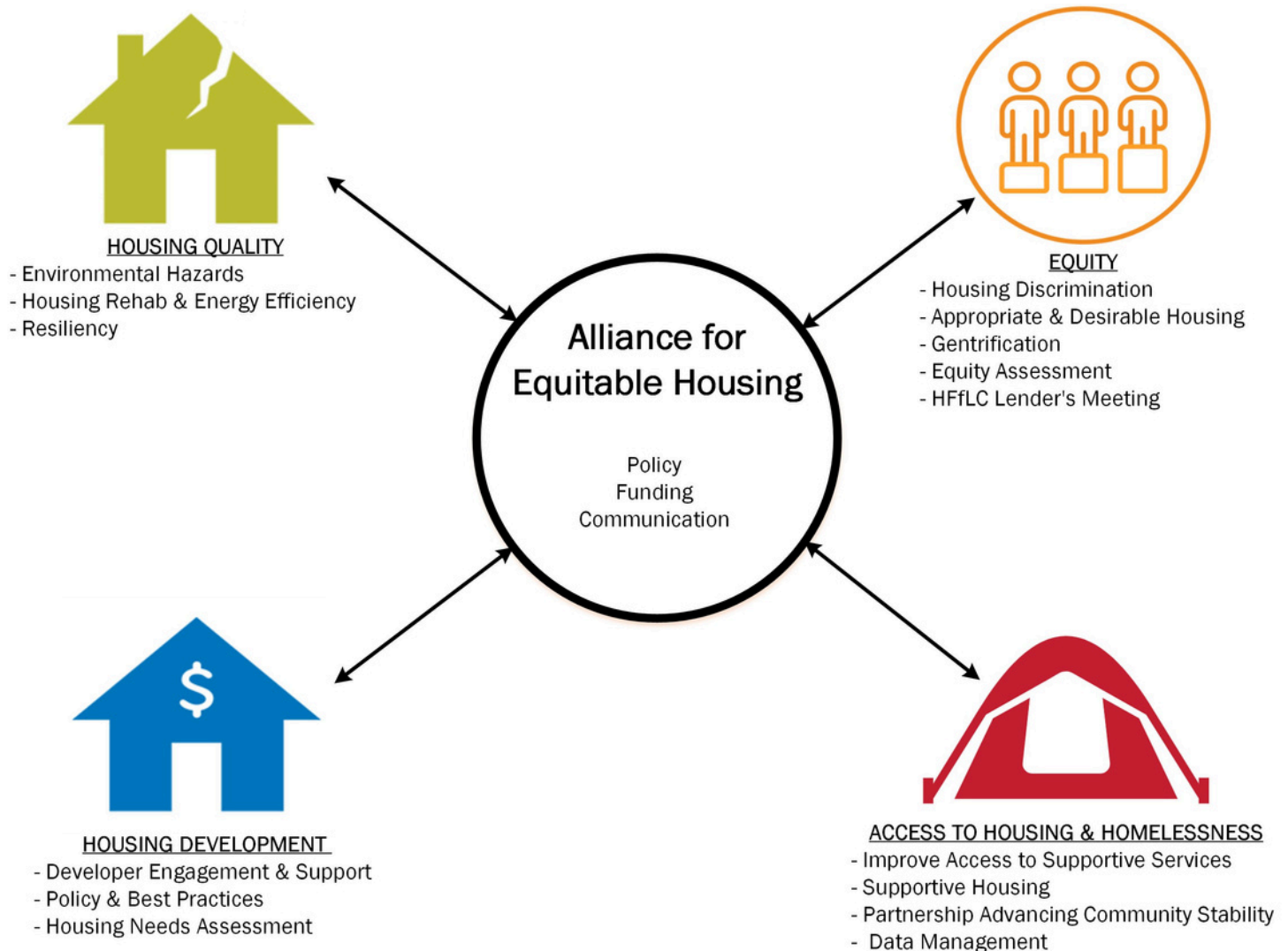
The four action planning groups are charged with creating action plans with tangible steps. The Alliance's role in this framework is to help the action planning groups overcome barriers as they build and execute on these action plans. Through the SWOT analysis, we know policy, funding, and communication are all barriers action planning groups will likely encounter, and the Alliance is made up of experts to help overcome those challenges.

A key outcome of this process will be a comprehensive housing action plan to address the issues brought up by the community.



The Framework

The action planning groups are organized by the issues identified by community. They consist of experts in the field that have broken down these issues into subgroups to make them more manageable. Each subgroup will develop their piece of the action plan and can leverage expertise across other groups as needed to solve interconnected issues.



Whenever possible, these action planning groups consist of existing groups and programs to leverage work that is already taking place. Additionally, we recognize that not everyone who has expertise in these areas will have the capacity to serve on action planning groups as identified in our SWOT analysis. Therefore, we are also creating ad hoc 'stakeholder groups' that will consist of such organizations whose input will be used to assess feasibility as ideas and solutions are proposed.

Housing Quality

"Higher barrier clients can only get into really poor quality housing and this can actually be worse for them than homelessness."

- Rapid Rehousing Case Manager, Willis Dady

Key Housing Quality Issues Identified in Community Conversation:

Housing Resiliency for the Next Disaster

- In many conversations, concern was noted over the resiliency of our housing stock for the next disaster if homes are not being repaired post-derecho.
- Concern for homes in which repairs were significantly delayed and sustained additional damage or in which the owners has no resources to make repairs.

Insurance Coverage

- Following the derecho, many community members were surprised to discover gaps in their insurance coverage.
- Complicated and time-consuming processes with insurance companies resulted in delayed or unreceived payments.

Poor Rental Quality & Inspections

- Renters are staying in unsafe and unhealthy conditions because other housing options are not available. They do not report for fear of eviction or non-renewal of lease.
- Inspections either did not happen or were delayed due to Covid-19 and there is high demand post-derecho.
- Linn County communities outside the metro cited frustration and difficulty in accessing inspections for rentals.

Incomplete or Poor Quality Repairs Post Disaster

- Case managers noting that rental units still have damage from derecho that has not been repaired.
- Predatory contractors made poor quality repairs, leaving the homeowner with no ability to pay for the repairs on their own.
- Homes sold without repairs completed. Sellers took the insurance payout without making repairs. Buyers were left with a home in disrepair without resources to fix the home.

Overall Disinvestment in Older Housing

- Older homes are often purchased for rentals and may not be invested in as they otherwise would be. Regular maintenance and upgrades are left undone.

Housing Quality

"Even if people did everything right because of Covid-19, climate change, all the disasters – things were not handled the way they should have been and people are still fighting with insurance companies after derecho. I am a lawyer and I still haven't gotten a dollar!"

- Lisa Gavin, Iowa Legal Aid on June 7, 2021

Linn County's Housing Stock is Old

Homes built before 1970 are more likely to have **lead**, **asbestos**, and **lack energy efficiency upgrades** unless there has been regular maintenance over time. 40% of all units in Linn County were built before 1970. Older housing stock that has not been properly maintained over time is particularly vulnerable when disaster strikes.



2 out of every 7 rental units were built before 1970



3 out of every 7 owner occupied units were built before 1970

Source: US Census; American Community Survey

The State of Iowa has some of the oldest housing in the country

Iowa ranks

#9

Only eight other states have a housing stock with a median age older than Iowa

50

years old is the median home age in Iowa

Source: HouseMethod.com; Median Age of Homes in US by Build Year



More than
2,500

housing units in Linn County were assessed as below normal or worse quality.

Source: Linn County & Cedar Rapids Assessor data

FEMA Real Property Damage Post-Derecho

More than
2,300

rental units sustained damage

Nearly
1,000

owner occupied units sustained damage

Damage ranged from minor to severe. In Cedar Rapids alone, more than 1,000 housing units were deemed **unlivable** in the week after the Derecho.

Source: The State of Iowa Action Plan for Disaster Recovery 2020 Midwest Derecho

Housing Quality

Action Planning Groups



Environmental Hazards

This group is focusing on identifying solutions to improve access to mold, pests & infestations, lead, radon, and hoarding solutions.



Housing Rehab & Energy Efficiency

This group is focusing on identifying solutions primarily for rental housing. Owner-occupied housing will also be addressed by first identifying where current programs do or do not meet existing needs.



Resiliency

The work of the Resiliency Action Planning group is still forthcoming and will leverage the work of the Linn County Community Resilience Plan, the City of Cedar Rapids Community Climate Action Plan, and the Linn County Sustainability Plan.

Scarcity of Units

"We have been discussing that there is an affordable housing crisis coming to Iowa for many years – and now that crisis is really here. It has arrived."

- Stephanie Murphy, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Finance Corporation

Key Housing Scarcity Issues Identified in Community Conversation:

Demand for units is high

- Identifying available units is easier outside Linn County.
 - A family of five who lost their home in the August 2020 derecho shared the closest place they could find a suitable home was in a different county.
 - Rapid Rehousing Case Managers cited that it was easier to house people in Johnson County.
- Linn County communities outside the metro noted high demand for housing in their communities, but often times an inability to meet that demand.
- The homebuyer market in 2020 and 2021 was competitive. Homes sold within hours and often for tens of thousands over asking price.
- Strong demand for homes in the home-buyer market resulted in buyers doing whatever they could to stay competitive. In some cases, buyers waived inspections and found themselves in a home with significant repair needs.
- Some landlords sold properties due to high selling prices and lost monies from the eviction moratorium.

Supply of units is low

- Businesses stated that many young professionals in the community earn \$17 - \$22 per hour and are still living at home because they cannot find quality affordable units.
- Businesses expressed concerns about talent recruitment and retention across the board from interns to CEOs because of the scarcity of housing units. Historically businesses are able to attract and retain talent by citing a low-cost of living in the area; they are concerned that this will no longer be the case.
- First-time home buyers struggled to compete against all-cash offers in a low inventory market.
- Populations with any challenges in their background (eviction, poor credit, criminal history, etc.) were at a significant disadvantage in the rental market because the demand was so high.

The cost of housing has increased

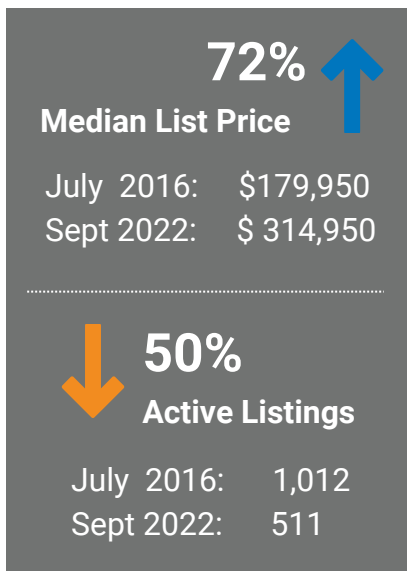
- The cost of labor and supplies to build or rehab housing increased dramatically initially due to supply chain issues and labor shortages, but is also now impacted deeply by inflation and rising interest rates.
- Significant demand for a limited supply of rental units has driven prices to the point that even just renting a room can be difficult for the higher barrier population.

Scarcity of Units

"...spoke with a private landlord and reported that they had 20+ applicants for a particular unit and that they were offered more rent per month than what they were asking."

- Rapid Rehousing Case Manager, Willis Dady

Since July 2016 the Home Buyer Market in Linn County has:



Source: Realtor.com, Housing Inventory, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

The Linn County Rental Market is Changing

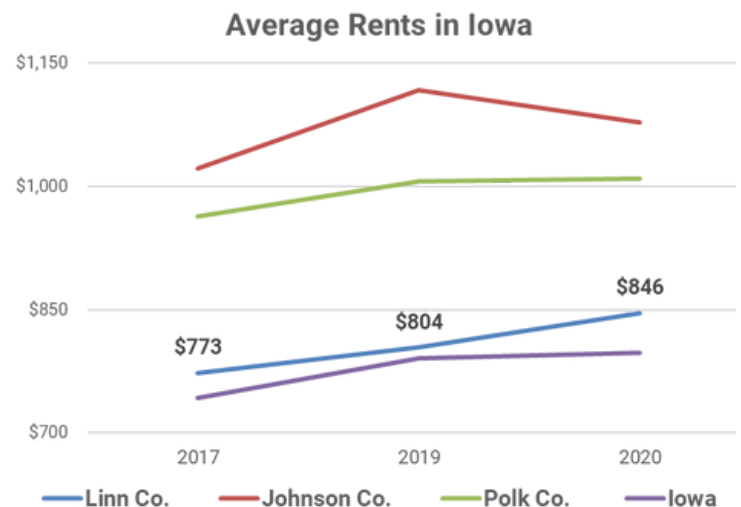
Rental Vacancy in
Cedar Rapids

1.3%

A 'healthy' market is
typically 5%

Source: Cedar Rapids 2022
Maxfield Housing Study

Rents in Linn County overall are still lower than Polk and Johnson Counties, but recent data shows that Linn County may be increasing against the trend. Available rental data shows through 2020, but we know the pandemic and derecho have increased scarcity and driven up prices.



Source: Iowa Finance Authority; Iowa Profile Demographic, Economic, and Housing Data

Housing Development

Action Planning Groups



Developer Engagement & Support

Build the capacity of developers to increase the production of affordable housing. This work is being led by the Cedar Rapids Affordable Housing Commission.



Policy & Best Practices

Create more affordable housing options for all incomes, needs, and household sizes, and reduce barriers and improve access to housing resources and support services by identifying best practices from our communities. This work is being led by the Cedar Rapids Affordable Housing Commission.



Housing Needs Assessment

Identify housing needs outside of the metro areas and identify areas of opportunity to address those needs. This work was funded by a Linn County Board of Supervisors ARPA grant and contracted with ECICOG to complete the assessment.

Access to Housing & Homelessness

"Our best tools and interventions that were successful five years ago no longer meet the needs of the population. We need different strategies that better meet the needs of this population."

- Heather Harney, Housing Director for Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP)

Key Access to Housing and Homeless Issues Identified in Community Conversation:

Homelessness is Different Today

- Previously, individuals were homeless for a short period of time due to a relatively short-lived crisis or financial issue. Today there are deeper issues and traumas that create barriers to housing.
- The level of care and service needed to meet the needs of this population can be more than what shelters can provide (significant disabilities, mental illness, aging/dementia, etc.).
- People are recycling through the homeless system. People are at the overflow shelter who were once stably housed.
- There is no one-size-fits-all to address this issue. People need solutions that can be individualized to their specific situation.

Limited Supportive Housing Units

- Supportive housing is critical to addressing homelessness, particularly for the chronically and persistently homeless population, but the supply of units in Linn County is very low.

Staffing Critical Support Positions is Challenging

- It is nearly impossible to find stable and sustainable funding for staffing to do the necessary work to help this population.
- Low pay and burnout keep these positions turning over and difficult to hire.

Financial Resources Cannot Meet the Demand of the Community Today

- The Linn County Emergency Rent Assistance (ERA) Program allocated nearly \$5 million in four months but immense needs remain.
- The bulk of financial resources left in the community are now heavily burdened in the absence of State and County ERA programs and run out of funding within days or weeks.

Linn County is resource rich which creates a regional draw for services. We need to ensure if people are coming here they are coming here for solutions and finding stability - not adding to the population experiencing homelessness in the community.

Access to Housing & Homelessness

"The street count has increased dramatically since 2019, but we have not always seen regular shelters at capacity. I think we have hit that point in our community where the data is showing what housing providers know, shelter is not the answer to ending homelessness."

- J'nae Peterman, Housing Director for Waypoint Services

The Cost to Taxpayers is HIGH

From 2013-2018, eight individuals experiencing homelessness were surveyed to complete the 2019 Cost of Homelessness Study. Here is what the data showed:

TOTAL COST FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS DURING STUDY:

\$1.2 Million

TOTAL VISITS TO THE ER:



109 while Homeless
1 while Stably Housed

TOTAL LEGAL INTERACTIONS:

184 while Homeless
2 while Stably Housed



AVERAGE MONTHLY COST PER PERSON

\$5,017

\$263

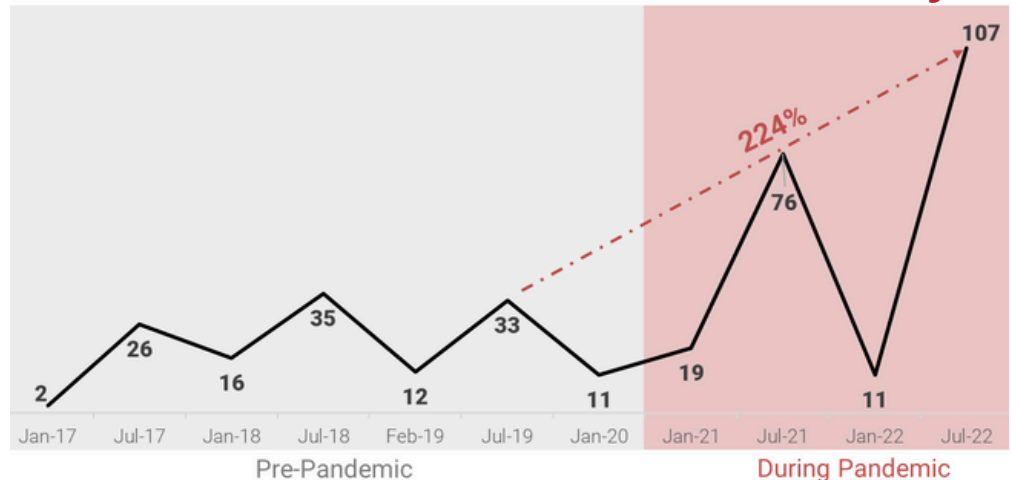
Stably Housed

Homeless

For more information visit:

LinnCountyIowa.gov/CostsofHomelessness

Unsheltered Numbers in Linn County



Source: Linn County Bi-Annual Point in Time Count

233

were homeless in shelter or transitional housing during the January 2022 PIT count

32%

were identified to be chronically homeless

50%

of those identified had income

Source: Linn County Bi-Annual Point in Time Count

40%

of Linn County renters spend >30% of their monthly income on housing

18%

spend >50% of their monthly income on housing

17%

of Linn County renters spending >50% on housing are elderly

Source: 2021 Census American Community Survey & 2019 CHAS Data Sets

3,234

additional rental units will be needed by 2030 in Cedar Rapids alone

1,085

units with shallow subsidy (40 - 80% Area Median income)

735

units with deep subsidy (50% Area Median income)

Source: 2022 Cedar Rapids Maxfield Housing Study

Access to Housing & Homelessness

Action Planning Groups



Improve Access to Support Services

This group is made up of the Continuum of Care subcommittees that are focused on ensuring that the population experiencing homelessness can access the supportive services including mental health, substance use, health insurance, and physical health resources they need while homeless and when they access housing.



Supportive Housing

These Continuum of Care subcommittees are primarily focused on identifying strategies to pivot away from shelter as the primary response and instead ensuring we are a housing first community to set households up for success.



Partnership Advancing Community Stability (PACS)

This is a strong collaboration between agencies providing assistance to individuals experiencing a housing crisis to assist them in recovering from their current crisis and move toward building their individual safety net through an empowerment approach.



Data Management

Knowing that existing strategies have not kept up with the needs of the population, this action planning group is devising mechanisms to monitor efficacy of existing strategies to identify gaps and pivot more quickly as needed.

Equity

All of the housing issues we have discussed will have different impacts and meaning based upon a person's race, ethnicity, gender, age, and/or disability."

-Stefanie Munsterman, Executive Director, Cedar Rapids Civil Rights

Key Equity Issues Identified in Community Conversation:

Housing Quality

- Segregation and subsequent neighborhood dilapidation were noted in all equity conversations.
- Poor rental quality was also noted as a serious housing issue amongst people of color and people with disabilities, with a particular impact noted for immigrant and refugee populations.

Scarcity of Units

Redlining, Historical, and "Modern Day"

- The impact of historical redlining was noted as a serious concern and the impacts it has today on generational wealth building and households' ability to purchase homes.
- It was also stated that redlining practices are still happening today in our community. This was commonly referred to as "modern-day" redlining.
 - Interracial couples noted when they searched for homes to purchase separately they were shown different homes in different neighborhoods.
 - Individuals noted hardships in attaining loans, in which applicants would have a credit score of 800, but still be denied a mortgage loan product.

Accessible Housing for People with Disabilities and Seniors, Especially People of Color

- Seniors and households with disabilities are forced into higher levels of care than needed, simply because accessible housing units are not available that meet their current needs.
- Landlords increasingly do not want to take Section 8 vouchers further limiting access especially for elderly and disabled populations that often benefit from the Section 8 program.

Homelessness & Access to Housing

Increases in the Shelter/Literally Homeless Population, Particularly Elderly Populations

- Shelters see an increase in elderly populations because affordable and appropriate housing units are not available. Shelter staff noted elderly populations such as a 95-year-old veteran or those in later stages of dementia staying at shelters.

Discrimination

- Housing discrimination is the top complaint submitted to the Civil Rights Commission and NAACP.
- Fear of retribution was noted as a primary reason for not reporting discrimination but also noted was confusion on how to report and the steps involved.

Mobile Homes

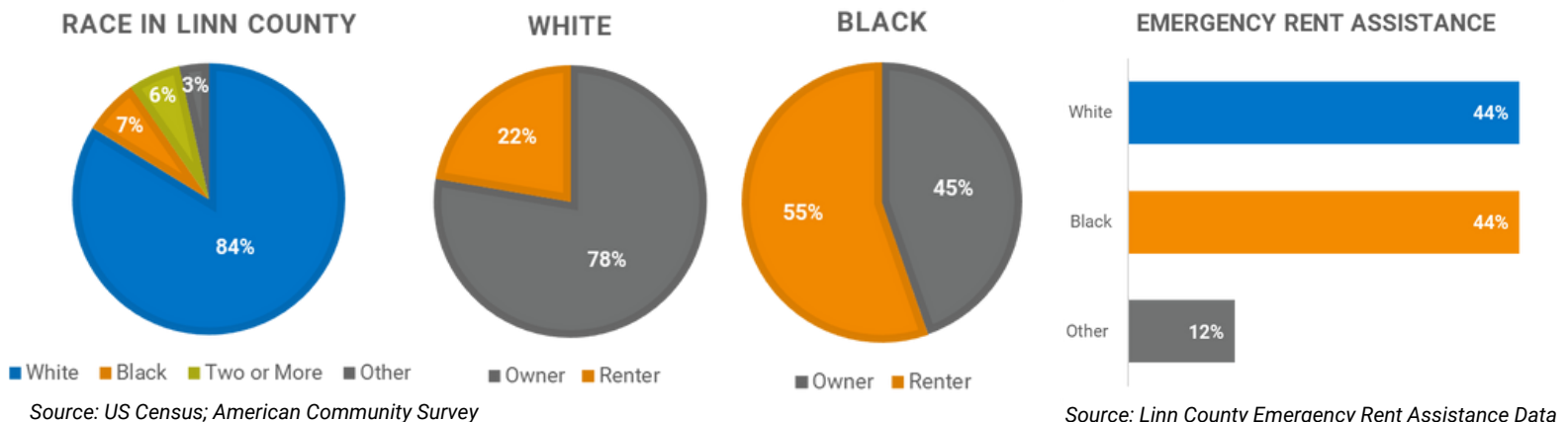
- Mobile home communities can be more accessible for vulnerable populations but there are far fewer protections than in traditional housing.
- Big corporations are buying parks and increasing lot rent, leaving tenants in a financially unstable position.

Equity

"(Nationally) The homeownership gap between whites and African Americans is now wider than it was during the Jim Crow era"

-Chicago Tribune

Disproportionality in the Linn County Housing System



Eviction Cases in Linn County

45%

Communities of Color

66%

Women

35%

Persons with Disabilities

Source: Iowa Legal Aid Eviction Data

1 in 3 of households with a disability live with a housing issue related to quality or affordability in Linn County.



Source: US Census; CHAS Data

75%

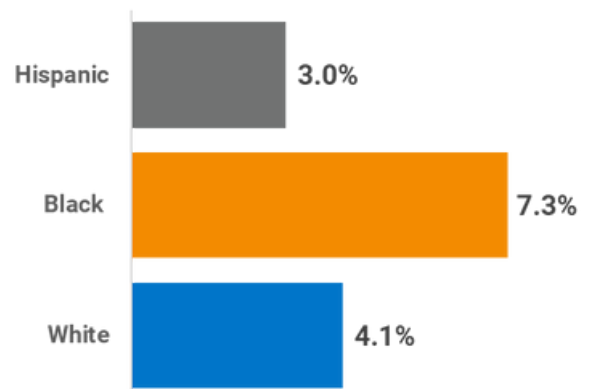
of Section 8 families are elderly or disabled

Source: Section 8 Data from March 2022

Blood Lead Levels in Children in Linn County

Black children test positive for high blood lead levels at higher rates than white counterparts despite the fact that Black children are sampled at much lower rates.

Source: Linn County Public Health



Equity

Action Planning Groups



Housing Discrimination

The equity group is focusing on breaking down barriers that discourage reporting and erode trust. This will emphasize navigating systems and information sharing.



Appropriate & Desirable Housing

This work will focus on identifying strategies and policy solutions to increase the amount of units that are appropriate and desirable to households with disabilities, seniors, and in particular seniors of color.



Gentrification

This area of work is focused on identifying steps and strategies to prevent gentrification and the displacement of long term residents.



Equity Assessment

This study will gather historical and current data to identify equitable housing opportunities or service gaps within the geography.



Housing Fund for Linn County Lender's Meeting

This work will be hosted by the Housing Fund for Linn County Board and will partner with local financial institutions to identify opportunities for collaboration.

The Cost of Doing Nothing

"Without quality, affordable housing, other things fall apart. Family, neighborhood, and the larger community's economic and overall success and ability to be resilient in the face of the next challenge is weakened."

- Clint Twedt-Ball, Executive Director, Matthew 25



Infrastructure for Growth at Risk

Employers are hiring but do not have the people to take those jobs. We need to ensure that our housing stock can meet the needs of community and allow for growth.



High Cost of Living

At current pace, Linn County is quickly losing its 'low cost of living' competitive advantage that attracts people to the area. Having access to desirable and affordable housing is critical to the future financial stability of families in Linn County.



Poor Health Outcomes

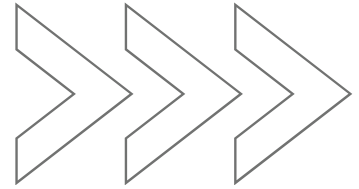
Poor quality housing, housing instability and eviction, and homelessness all lead to poor physical and mental health outcomes such as depression, anxiety, increased use of alcohol and drugs, and psychological distress and suicide. Increased levels of stress leads to disruptions in employment, connections to others, and education and often lead to high health care costs.



Investment in Band-Aids Not Solutions

Without investment in real solutions, we will continue to spend money on short-term solutions that do not actually solve the problem.

Measuring Progress



Early Wins

Increased Capacity for Rental Inspections

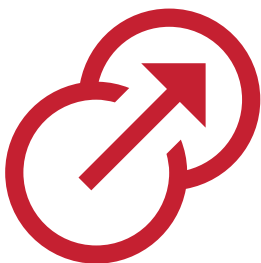


In Spring of 2021, members of the Alliance for Equitable Housing spoke with communities outside the Metro area and heard that there was significant frustration with access to inspections, specifically for rentals. The Alliance shared this information with Linn County staff and helped to advocate for a new position that would focus on rentals outside of the metro area. This position was funded and hired by Linn County and will focus on assisting communities outside of the metro area that have inspection needs.



Prioritize Housing Needs for ARPA

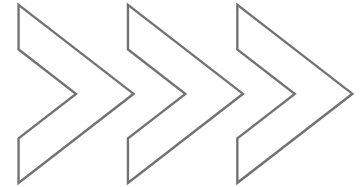
The information gathered in the early days of the Alliance for Equitable Housing not only informed this work but was also used by local governments to prioritize how ARPA funds were allocated, which included funding the Linn County Housing Needs Assessment and Equity Analysis and a number of affordable housing projects.



Transition from Rent Assistance to Stability Planning

A Rent & Utility Assistance collaborative came into being at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and predates the work of the Alliance for Equitable Housing. However, through the work and prioritization of the Alliance, this group has transitioned from focusing solely on eviction prevention to instead focusing on the root cause of these issues and identify what will truly meet their needs for the long term.

Measuring Progress



"... a win somewhere is a win everywhere. Solving any of it helps all of it"

- Doug Nuemann, Executive Director, Metro Economic Alliance

Key Indicator	Goal	Desired Outcomes
Housing Quality, Resiliency, & Efficiency	Improve housing quality in Linn County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy to incentivize rental rehab and energy efficient upgrades • Assessment of efficacy of existing owner occupied rehab programs • Identify resources and referral network for mold, lead, pests, radon, and hoarding
Housing Development	Build community capacity for more housing development in Linn County that addresses gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a resource sheet for developers to better access available incentives • Develop a support network for developers to leverage community expertise • Complete a Housing Needs Assessment to identify opportunities for development in communities outside the metro
Access to Housing & Homelessness	Identify strategies for the hard to house populations and to make homelessness rare and brief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunities for more supportive housing within the community for the persistently homeless. • Identify a housing first approach for Linn County • Connect financial assistance resources to community stabilization resources
Equity	Availability & accessibility to where and what housing a person desires regardless of age, race, gender, ability, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete an Equity Assessment of the Linn County housing system • Identify strategies for effective communication & education with populations often left out. • Convene a meeting of community Leaders to identify strategies to address gaps.

Next Steps



01 Build out Action Plans

The action planning groups are currently working on developing plans to address the issues they are tasked with. Action plans will also identify priorities to be addressed immediately, while planning for the long term solutions we know we need.

02 Community Education & Communication

While the action planning groups are working, the Alliance will be working to educate the community on the big picture - why this work is important and how everyone can be part of the solution.

03 Implementation

The Alliance for Equitable Housing and the action planning groups will work together to implement solutions identified.

Acknowledgements

Organizations Involved in Action Planning Groups:

Housing Quality

City of Cedar Rapids Housing Services
ECICOG
Heritage
Horizons
Housing Fund for Linn County
Linn County Community Services
Linn County Planning & Development
Linn County Public Health
Matthew 25
Waypoint Services

Housing Development

Cedar Rapids Affordable Housing Commission

Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission
NFC
UWECI
Affordable Housing Network
Landlords of Linn County
Professional Services - Housing Developer
NAACP
Matthew 25
Waypoint Services
Habitat for Humanity
Waypoint Services
Housing Fund for Linn County
Unity Point St. Lukes
ECICOG
HACAP
Iowa Legal Aid
Willis Dady

Equity

Advocates for Social Justice
Bankers Trust
Catherine McAuley Center
Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust
Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission
Family Promise
GCRCF
Horizons
Iowa State University
Linn County
Marion Alliance for Racial Equity
Marion Civil Rights Commission
NAACP
NFC
Skogman Realty
Spire Property Management
UWECI
Wellington Heights Community Church

Access to Housing & Homelessness

Partnership Advancing Community Stability

Catholic Charities
Helping Hands
Horizons
Iowa Legal Aid
Linn County General Assistance
Marion Cares
Metro Catholic Outreach
The Salvation Army
UWECI
Waypoint Services

Continuum of Care Subcommittees

Abbe Center for Mental Health
Affordable Housing Network, Inc
Amerigroup
ASAC
Catherine McAuley Center
Cedar Rapids Police Department
Cedar Rapids Public Library
City of Cedar Rapids Housing Services
East Central Region
Eastern Iowa Health Center
First Lutheran Church
First Presbyterian Church
Foundation 2
Four Oaks
The Freedom Foundation
HACAP
His Hands Free Clinic
Horizons
Housing Fund for Linn County
Linn County Community Services
Linn County Public Health
Mercy Medical Center
Waypoint Services
Willis Dady

Thank you for your continued support and efforts to contribute to the Alliance for Equitable Housing!